

Wednesday, October 15, 2014

Wednesday Rides

Short Ride

Seven riders left Hornbeam for the hilly seventeen mile ride. We were joined by Paul B at Burnbridge. The first hill was the climb up Brackenthwaite Lane. Almscliffe Crag looked impressive approaching it along Greenmires Lane and Gindhill Lane. It felt as if we were cycling downhill through Huby and Weeton. The final part of the route was the climb up to Kirkby Overblow. Paul and Dennis left us at Pannal as we all went for coffee and scones at Crimble Hall. Thanks for a great ride and good company. Paul T



Poddlers' Ride

It was a dull, damp morning, but not actually raining. The forecast was uncertain: possibly rain at 12pm, maybe not. The sun was unlikely to shine. Caroline had kindly agreed to be my Charming Assistant in the absence of Geraldine, who was still recuperating. About eight of us opted for Wetherby, Bramham and Collingham, with some options about how we should return, depending on the weather and willingness and group dynamics. Following a brief warning about wet leaves, we set off to the Show Ground along the nice path through the woods, Ridding and across the ring road to Follifoot and Spofforth, along the not-too-muddy Harland Way to Wetherby. Straight through the town centre to the cycle path alongside the A1 and then on to Bramham, where we crossed over the A1 towards Collingham. There were frequent stops to regroup and chat, and I think I can say that we definitely set a Poddling pace. On the small, quiet road towards Thorner (called, not surprisingly, Thorner Lane...) we stopped for yet another regroup and chat and photo, kindly taken by Liz. As we girded our loins to face the gentle uphill followed by the rather pleasant long, downhill into Collingham, a horse and cart (trap? gig?) appeared, and kindly stopped for photos. The horse was called Magic, and he was very friendly and cooperative. We crossed the A58 towards Linton, where a discussion took place about a possible café stop. Five of us continued into Wetherby where we took refreshments at the North Street Deli which Liz had not frequented for some time. Max persuaded me, against my better judgement, to have a bacon and egg

sandwich, and we all had something good to eat with the good coffee. I think there had been some drizzle while we were in the NSD, but it was not significant. Back through Kirk Deighton and left into Spofforth, Follifoot to Rudding and the Showground Hill, which Caroline avoids for reasons I can understand. A final surprise was that the track from the back entrance to the Showground towards Hookstone Road past the Squash Club has been completely resurfaced! Lovely. Max suggested a short Time Trial on it. About 31 miles. Joe S



Wednesday Ride

Sarah led five of us off to Thruscross where we braved steep hills and constant drizzle but with 30 miles by the time we got home it was worth the effort. Dave R, Tim and Terry carried on towards Greenhow while we opted for the comfort of Sophie's. Gia M

Five became three when Gia and Sarah, with whom we had cycled from Hornbeam Park, decided to return to Harrogate when we had got to the junction of West End Lane and Reservoir Road, Thruscross. David who usually goes on longer distance hilly rides, Terry and I had decided to go on to Pateley Bridge via Greenhow and down Peat Lane which towards the bottom has one of the steepest gradients in the Harrogate area which I'm aware of!

When Dave and I arrived at Teacups cafe, Pateley Bridge, Terry was nowhere to be seen - he'd got a puncture. Fortunately he managed to push his bike to the cafe and between the three of us we repaired it using the outside tables to support the wheel. It turned out the cause of the puncture was that the inner tube had been pinched. We warmed up in the cafe with a mug of coffee each and a large chocolate brownie which only cost £2! By the time we resumed our ride back at about 1:15pm the drizzle had cleared up but the views were limited due to the foggy conditions. Our return route took us through Bewerley, Glasshouses (where my chain came off and got stuck between the frame and small ring on the front gear), Wilsill, Smelthouses and past Brimham Rocks after which we free wheeled more or less all the way down to Burnt Yates. We rode down to Clint and through the delightful Hollybank Wood into Ripley and back home along the Greenway cycle path. In total a distance of nearly 42 miles with a total ascent of 3845 ft - a most enjoyable ride. Tim R





EGs' Ride

Not a good weather forecast for Harrogate, with a fine drizzle on Harlow Hill, however at Low Bridge it was dry and was that a small patch of blue out towards the East? We had twelve riders including Michael (nice to see you back again).

Easingwold was the chosen destination, unfortunately since Angela`s closed we are a bit stuck for first coffee stops. Linton Lock cafe was chosen on a recommendation, the owners being new (the last ones we boycotted due to their attitude in telling us they did not want cyclists). The group split into two to avoid "cafe shock", this being our first visit, but the welcome was warm, and the toilets are new and indoors.

After which four headed for home and eight for Easingwold, but found themselves at the gates of R.A.F Linton, as the R.A.F does not have a Geriatric Squadron it was no good volunteering, so it was on to Newton-on-Ouse, Tollerton, Huby and Easingwold and the Curious Tables Cafe, which was Curiously full due to the outside Curious Tables being curiously removed.

The food was good as usual, then it was head for home via Boroughbridge. It was noted that the Harrogate weather forecast did not apply to the Easingwold area, with the roads being bone dry. In Knaresborough and Harrogate the roads were wet and the air was damp, but we had being very lucky with the weather, and it did not rain on our parade. A ride of 58/60 miles max, but it was noted that the nights are now drawing in. Dave P





Long Ride Report

On the way to Hornbeam, I'd been compiling a ride suggestion, in case I was asked. But today was a "we're going to ..." day and Lotherton and Selby were the destinations. Uncanny – I'd been thinking of the same.

Five set off in an opposite direction to Lotherton, but the journey out through Burn Bridge proved to be a circling movement to align us for Kirkby Overblow, Collingham and Bramham – like a fast bowler turning at the end of his run-in? We paused briefly at Wothersome to wonder at the size of something going on there – a large gable structure and a long concrete pumping chute. Moving swiftly past the site of Richard S's puncture and the deluge that soaked us all in July, we arrived at Lotherton in good time for a coffee break, past a curious straw bale structure that seemed to be portraying a wedding couple. It's one of way of marketing!

Substantial Bakewell slices proved to be the cake of choice today, sufficiently filling to get us through a headwind into Sherburn and beyond to Selby, for a banana break and photo stop – see picture, courtesy of John S. The Bakewell/ banana combination meant that a Selby café wouldn't get our custom this time, but possibly next year. Instead, we set sights on Copmanthorpe and Little Acorns, a café discovered by Richard P and me last December and earlier this year by the EGs. Leaving behind the sights and smells of Selby – malt and spice to my untutored nose – it was time to leap across the Solar System towards York (NCN65).

The route has some extra features of interest besides the scale models of the planets. These include 1/3 scale models of Voyager 1 and the Cassini Probe, but you have to look up to see these. Nearer the ground is a coal cutter head. Two locations could be possible stops in the future, one intriguingly called Trust U (a café/ rest stop) and Brunswick Organic Nursery, between Mars and Jupiter (!), which has loos and a café.

Little Acorns at Copmanthorpe provided a warm welcome, good food, plenty of tea and a large table. So comfortable were we that it was 3 o'clock before the journey home began. Flat terrain and a helpful wind enabled us to make good progress to Rudgate, where Lesley and Richard S left us for Knaresborough. Richard P, John S and I diverted past Wetherby racecourse where a meeting was in progress, but we arrived between races, it seemed. From Wetherby, it was the usual route home through Spofforth, Follifoot and the Showground, where the sharpness of the final climb reminded us that we'd seen nothing like it since Jewitt Lane, Collingham – 71 enjoyable and mainly dry miles in all. Terry S

