

Wednesday, November 5, 2014

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers Ride

On such a lovely morning I was really pleased that I'd planned to go westward to enjoy the hills and scenery at their best. We set off in small groups to reconvene at Stainburn car park. We made our way along the gated road- gates kindly operated by Dennis- before beginning the descent. Sue and Caroline left at this point to support a local coffee morning. At the next junction we were suddenly faced with several cars just as we were deciding go to Leathley or to take the shorter option which involved a short, steep climb to the Braythorn turn-off. So, the shorter option was quickly chosen. Towards the top we caught up with Caroline and Sue again. At Almscliff Crag I suggested returning to Harrogate via Burnbridge with anyone else who wanted to get back. Gordon agreed to continue to Kirkby Overblow and Harrogate with anyone who wanted a longer ride. However disaster! Unknown to those of us nearer the front, Liz P fell off in her efforts to make way for a lorry. With encouragement and support from the rest of the group with her, she was able to ride home. So thanks to all those who stayed with her. The rest of us made our way back to Harrogate in plenty of time to get on with various commitments/activities. Alison N





Wednesday Ride

Toft Gate Farm café was our destination today. What a fantastic day to cycle up Duck Street with not too much wind and an enthusiastic group of people ready to test this newly recommended café. The views on Greenhow were outstanding as we passed Coldstone Cut and pulled in to the farm. CLOSED!!!! Sadly it was closed for the day. It looks great and having sampled their food last week at an event in Pateley it is worth another attempt.

We were going to tail down Peat Lane but agreed that we could safely negotiate Greenhow if we were sensible.

We arrived at Tea Cups as the Blind Society were wrapping up their technology session, the Vicars meeting had finished and the Book group were buried in a corner. Well refreshed we rode to Glasshouses, forgetting to visit the Pillars Past in Pateley, scooted along the main road to Hartwith Toll Bridge and home via Clint Bank and the Greenway.

So a newish combination of rides for some and ideas to return varying the route another time. About 40 miles . Gia



EGs Ride

Wall to wall sunshine, clear blue skies, and a slight chill in the air, once again perfect cycling weather, surely this cannot weather continue, after all it is bonfire night tonight, then its Christmas. It came as no surprise that we had seventeen riders at Low Bridge, there was only one place that could cater for caffeine and calories seventeen times, so it was on to Wetherby and Morrisons cafe.

There was quite a bit of traffic on the road in the morning so avoid the B6164, so the back roads via Thistle Hill, Follifoot and the Deightons to Wetherby were taken.

Morrisons were on form and it was the fastest toasted tea cakes in the west.

After which it was on to the Sicklinghall ridge.

At the downhill challenge to Netherby, Dave (wonderwheels) Siswick , the firm favourite set off first to set the standard.

Note this particular downhill has a fear factor built in to it. ie no touching the brakes.

All failed to beat the Siswick standard, save one (out of the lightweight division) who absolutely wiped it out, by around three bike lengths, usually the championship is decided by a wheel or half a wheels diameter.

After that there was no holding Dave Watson. On to Weeton, Wescoe Hill and the swoop down to Castley. A phone call to Cockpit Farm Cafe confirmed it was not opened, so the signage was giving duff gen and was in the process of being collected. Due to the now sixteen riders, small Otley cafes were out, so the cafeteria in the garden centre was chosen.

After which a small "elite" group including champion Dave Watson, now on a high headed for the Cow and Calf. Another small group to Askwith bank and another small group retracing their steps to Castley, with the main group a magnificent seven climbing to Stainburn and another great swoop down to Beckwithshaw.

Autumn colours in again perfect cycling weather in one of Yorkshires Dales, a few hills to get the blood going, back before 3-30pm it do`nt get much better. Dave P



Long Ride

Early ambitions for the six of us to reach Ampleforth began to wither soon after Arkendale when a diversion through Marton took us to Aldborough, followed by a loop through the Dunsfords along the way to Aldwark Bridge. Here we were greeted cheerfully by the toll-keeper, who instructed us to keep well to the left and ride in single file. Obviously some agenda there, as we had the bridge to ourselves! By this time the route had re-focused on lunch in Easingwold. With a bit of time to spare, we took a look at RAF trainers in action and then explored the surface variations along NCN65 as we circumnavigated Linton-on-Ouse airfield. Some of us were surprised that a NCN route should be rough and muddy, but would we want it all tarmacked?

Reaching Easingwold with 35 miles on the clock told us it was lunch time. Once again The Curious Table was our choice, shared with a tandem couple from Ripon. Leaving the snug of the café, we returned to the bright sun and a stiffish northerly breeze that had been our companions since Knaresborough. The route back home started into that breeze to take in the Husthwaites and the Sessays, with a moderate climb or two, before turning for Thornton Bridge. Here the group split, with Lesley and me following the leader's instructions and heading (north) towards Cundall, whereas John, Peter and Richard L turned for Milby and Boroughbridge. It seemed to have been a quiet revolt. Meanwhile the main group headed to the outskirts of Dishforth airfield before finally turning south with the breeze behind us.

While grateful for day-long sun on a November ride, the low angle brought its own challenges as we headed back to Knaresborough along the familiar route. Helmet visors don't really do the job of a windscreen blind and I found myself squinting hard and shielding eyes for much of the ride back. No complaints, however – 65 flat miles in the sun is a lovely way to enjoy a day! Thanks to all, especially Richard P who led the diversions in the usual sure-footed way. Terry Smith