

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

## Wednesday Rides

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### Poddlers Ride

8 riders set off in overcast weather. Just after Farnham Caroline decided to take a shorter route to Bishop Monkton and was never to be seen again but text me to say she was very wet but home after meeting a large pheasant shoot gathering on the green way. Glyn disappeared for eggs around Boroughbridge then meeting up again with us in Ripley. New rider Phil had a puncture just after crossing A61 (very much to his embarrassment) rain could not have been heavier and no shelter. Arrived home damp and could say have had better days cycling. Steven

### EGs' Ride

The weather forecast was not good.

This probably was the reason why we only had eight riders at Low Bridge.

To be fair though some had sent in their leave of absence notes. Eric absence was due to him planting his bulbs, considering the weather forecast he might have been better planting rice in a paddy field, for the benefit of the less knowledgeable EG`s that has nothing to do with Irish Agriculture.

Although we had eight riders it was really a five Dave`s ride, two P`s, two W`s and an S, for one of them, Dave P (the elder) it was not a good start to the day, in his forgetting of five essential items, fortunately he remembered his helmet, his bike and his shorts, but he took the forgetful trophy.

On the subject of trophies at the Occaney downhill challenge, the favourite, Dave Watson after last Wednesday`s performance was eclipsed like the rest of us by a surprise performance from Norman, was he to be the new champion ?, but no, back came Dave S to reclaim his crown.

The first caffeine stop was Spa Gardens Cafe, but just before Ripon down came the rain, but it was warm rain so no probs.

After refreshment it was on to Wath however on the way Dave Watson suggested a "small" detour via Thornborough and Sutton Howgrave, nice, however the roads were rather "clarty", but now the rain had stopped so there was no hope of a good downpour to wash the bikes.

Lunch or was it afternoon tea was taken at the Lux Cafe in the Melmerby Ind Estate (the one with the micro brewery).

After which on to Topcliffe, Cundall and Boroughbridge, where only a comfort stop was made (too much info I know).

Then back to Knaresborough and Harrogate in winter sun with some blue skies.

A nice ride, lorra laughs, weather better than forecasted, mileage for most riders in the mid fifties. Dave P



### **Long Ride**

Today was a day in yellow, but not in the way that the TdeF means it. More most of us yellow was the colour of our rain gear, with your scribe choosing to don a full touring cape for the first time this autumn. Five riders headed for tea and cake at Timble, using a couple of Pugh loops to ensure that we didn't arrive before this month's coffee morning was open. We needn't have worried – the hall was well populated, suggesting that most of the clientele must have been let in early. A fire in the grate, together with excellent cakes (especially the Swiss roll, says Lesley) and friendly attentive staff made for a feeling of contentment, abruptly spoiled when we saw the heavy rain lashing against the windows. This washed away any thoughts of a ride up to Thruscross and focused our minds on heading back towards HG, with options for diversionary loops if the weather should improve. Once clear of Fewston towards Pennypot the weather did just that. From Pennypot Lane our first loop took in the smell of wet sheep, the Kettlesings, Birstwith and Bishop Thornton. At Drovers it looked as though the afternoon's weather might be favourable. With Richard P and John S having left early to pursue other activities, Lesley, Charlie and I "looped" to Fountains Visitor Centre for a light lunch. A slightly chilly descent through the Deer Park set us on the familiar return loop via Ripon, Bishop Monkton and some wonderful sunlit views of the North York Moors to Knaresborough, where we said our goodbyes to Lesley. The remaining two headed for Hornbeam through Woodlands Corner, where the "improvements" at this junction remain a cyclist's puzzle still. The ride ended in a different yellow – the glow of a bright autumn sun. We'd got away with a 50 mile ride, climbed 3200 ft and only had one downpour. What luck! Terry Smith