

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

## Wednesday Rides

---

### Poddlers Ride

As short ride leader I went to Hornbeam this morning just in case any one else turned up. Sensibly no other Poddlers appeared and I was able to go home. Kevin did the same as regards the long ride and Terry set off to see if any EG's were out today. David A

### Wednesday Ride

Report to follow

### EGs' Ride

The weather forecast yesterday seemingly dissuaded many to venture out on their bikes today. Only five gathered at Low Bridge perhaps wondering what they were about to face. Albeit the forecast was diabolical the weather didn't really live up to the doom-mongers pronouncements. Notwithstanding this there was a cold biting wind accompanied by brief heavy showers with a few sunny periods and rainbows in the distance. Temperatures were in the region of 3°C but the wind chill factor made it feel much colder.

Thus we five ventured forth to face the elements led by our deputy leader, Dave W.(1), who guided us towards Ripon via a roundabout route through Ripley, Markington & Littethorpe.

Our regular leader is still recovering from breaking his left wrist during a fall, accompanied by Dave S. a couple of weeks ago. We all wish him well and hope he is making good progress towards picking up the baton and leading us forth on many more rides. (Dave S. apparently escaped relatively unscathed)

Our intention was to stop off at The Sun Parlour Cafe, Spa Gardens but on arrival we were surprised to find a pre-arranged xmas party had beaten us to it, so we headed toward the cafe next to the "Work-house museum.

On trying the door we were informed this had been closed for some time so we set off to "The Warehouse" cafe. This too was closed. As a last resort we set off in the direction of yet another Morrison's. At least we could be sure they would be open.

Following our early lunch after a brief discussion it was agreed we would head back towards Harrogate facing yet more cold wet windy weather. A premature conclusion to the ride but at least we made it. Thanks for the usual good company, Eric, Peter, Dave Wilson, and Terry, I think we did enjoy ourselves, didn't we?

Anyway we completed about 40 miles for those from Harrogate. Well done! Dave W

Given the weather forecast for the day, there was an understandable "no show" at Hornbeam this morning. Just Kevin and David were found sheltering from the "nithering" wind, joined by me just in time to hear the official cancellations of the Poddlers and Medium rides. Kevin and David headed for home and I set off to catch whoever the EGs could muster.

By 10.00, four had joined me, including Eric who, 24 hours earlier, had been bathing in the Red Sea. From 28C to 3C is quite a jolt, I imagine. A basic North-South route seemed a good idea to avoid tackling the wind head-on, and Ripon was the target.

Beyond Knaresborough and out towards Lingerfield life seemed very good - shelter, sunshine and lovely sunlit scenery. Within a mile it was driving, face-stinging rain, a salutary foretaste of more to come. As we progressed it became clear that the route was essentially a form of tacking on roads, with head wind sections followed by respite sections downwind.

This eventually brought us to Ripon at midday, to be foiled in three attempts at finding an open cafe: Spa Gardens had a private party, the Workhouse and the Warehouse were closed. Damp, cold and gasping we resorted to Morrison's cafe, where the warmth and the grub were very welcome, as was the prompt service for two of us - a toastie took a long to appear, however.

Apart from a quick dismissal of A61 as the direct route back to HG, there was little debate over the return journey: Littlethorpe, Bishop Monkton ... you know the rest. More heavy showers, some

hail and a few glimpses of the sun kept the concentration levels high and soon brought us into Knaresborough. By the time Eric and I bade our farewells at Stray Rein the sky again threatened a heavy squall. Luckily I missed it; I hope Eric did because it was the heaviest of the day. Thank you to the EGs for welcoming a lone WE for the day. As usual the company took all the challenges of the ride in good heart, with a sense of humour and never any question of whether it was the right day to do 40 miles on a bike. Thanks again, Gents! Terry S