

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

## Wednesday Rides

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### Poddler's Ride

The lack of wind and limited guest appearance of the sun greatly affected the balance between the ying and the yang of the eleven Poddlers who signed on for today's ride. No one was in a hurry as aching limbs and winter illnesses were brushed aside and bodies luxuriated in the gentle conditions. A steady ride on an anticlockwise loop around the north of Harrogate took in Farnham, Occaney, Burton Leonard, Markington and Ripley. Caroline added an extra loop at super steady pace to try to work out the technical explanation for her gears lack of reasonable behaviour. Most of the group declined coffee at Ripley leaving three grumpy old men to enjoy the last of the sun's rays, coffee and hot chocolate but no cakes, and an erudite discussion on the purchase of good French cheese cheaply (sadly Paul, it was a one day offer only!) The tried and tested Greenway led us safely home. Nice to see you all again and thanks for your company. Milage - who really cared today. Max G



### Wednesday Ride

Twelve of us set off towards Beningbrough Farm Shop, beautiful day, hardly any wind and spring definitely in the air. Paul left us at Arkendale as the sun was getting warmer and by Great Ouseburn Martin was delayering his tights!

In cavalier fashion we ignored the road closed sign to Linton-on-Ouse and predictably came unstuck! Or stuck as the fantastically resurfaced road became rather hot. Those that needed to, deloused their bikes and we used the track along the field to get ourselves out of trouble.

After a rather slow but excellent lunch Martin suggested that we used route 65 at Linton-on-Ouse which came out at Youlton on the Easingwold route. The track was for a long way good tarmac, then a well surfaced gravel track alongside fields.

At Great Ouseburn, Martin, Yvonne, Kevin and James returned by the route we had come, the rest of us rode to Whixley, Hunsingore, Little Ribston and back through the showground. 48 miles. Gia M



### **EGs' Ride**

A voice from behind was heard to remark that he'd rather be doing this than anything else today as fourteen E.Gs cycled steadily in the warming sunshine towards the Sun Parlour Cafe, Ripon, (recently re-opened following a winter break) via Ripley, "Watergate", & Studley Park.

As four abandoned the group, to return early, the remaining ten, refreshed with Caroline's best fare, continued under gathering clouds en-route to Bedale.

"Hold it", someone shouted, whilst we passed through Hutton Conyers, as Dave Wilson, strangely at the rear of the peloton, suddenly found that despite pressure on his pedals the rear wheel seemed reluctant to respond. Returning to assist and assess the puzzling symptoms, the gathering "experts" deemed the problem lay with a failed "freewheel", the second one in recent months.

After some consternation and a little gentle force, drive was re-established. Dave S. & Peter J. (who were scheduled to return early anyway) volunteered to accompany Dave Wilson back to base. (See supplementary report below) .

Now numbers reduced to seven we continued on our way to Bedale, arriving (without Chris, who had to peel-off near Kirklington) somewhat later than anticipated but enjoying a fine lunch at the "Farmhouse Cafe" in the square.

Intent on avoiding the hedge clippings encountered on the route north, it was decided to return via Thorpe Perrow and Well, testing our "mettle" up the (nice little) hill toward Tanfield and returning through Ripon and onwards towards "Sandy Lane" top where Ian & Colin said their farewells and thereon to Knaresborough where our ride leader left the remaining three to head for home and a well deserved roast dinner awaiting him. Yet again a great ride completing about 60 miles and the weather at least staying dry. Dave W



### **Rescue Ride**

Peter and I decided to accompany Dave back to Knaresborough, and although this was a friendly gesture of support, the friendship didn't extend to any reduction in pace. We went like the proverbial clappers, until a mile past Bishop Monkton there was the plaintive cry "It's gone again!".

The errant freewheel had decided not to engage again leaving no drive to the rear wheel. We decided to leave Dave in the comfortable surroundings of the peaceful countryside, and the amenity of a roadside bench, whilst Pete and I hightailed it back, still at pace undiminished. It was time for the Roedcliffe Rescue and Recovery Service, which duly rose to the occasion once again.

No harm done, and casualty safely returned to Harrogate for remedial action.

The recovery service cannot be faulted; the one complaint is that you have to ride back with him and that's a nightmare!!

Yet another enjoyable day.

Dave S.



### **Long Ride**

You may have thought that there was no long ride last week. Not so! Five went to How Stean Gorge, via the Greenway, Brimham, Fell Beck, Pateley Moor and Wath. A fab lunch was enjoyed at the How Stean café before a flat(ish) return via Pateley, Bewerley, Glasshouses, Summerbridge and the toll road to Birstwith. 55 miles and 3400 feet of ascent.

This week, Terry S fancied Sutton Bank so that was the plan. He then threw a sickie (best wishes for a speedy recovery Terry) so five went without him. Although we were minus a Terry, we did have a full complement of three Richards. As two people needed to be back early we took a direct route through Boroughbridge, Sessay, and Kilburn. The climb up White Horse Bank was just as hard as it was in 2014 but we arrived at the control tower café bang on 12 noon for a very welcome early lunch. For once we could see for miles – snow was spotted on the hills towards Teesdale. Several brave glider pilots were catapulted into the skies as we ate. Only one came back though.

The return was along the ridge then down Sutton Bank on the A170 – max speed of 42 mph was reached- before turning off the main road before Sutton-under-Whitstonecliffe to wend our way to Bagby and Little Hutton. Here the ride split in two, with 3 returning via Dalton and Topcliffe and the others back to Sessay. About 65 miles and about 1800ft of ascent (mostly in one go!).  
Lesley S