

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers' Ride

Thirteen Poddlers so Gordon kindly volunteered to lead half from Knaresborough up to Bishop Monkton. Here they were made to pose among the daffodils and they managed to persuade a horse and rider to pose with them! At Bishop Monkton Gordon, Dennis and Steve headed back via Boroughbridge as they wanted a shorter ride, so it was a group of 10, having admired the daffodils, proceeded through Littlethorpe and Ripon and into Studley Park. Fortunately the expected headwind did not materialise so the climb from Ripon was not as bad as feared. At the entrance to Studley Park I was told that we were all going to the cafe by the lake even though this meant an extra hill or in Geraldine's case doing it twice! How times have changed - a few years ago it was difficult to persuade any Poddler to go to a cafe! Anyway we were very well looked after in the cafe and managed to consume a wonderful array of goodies between us (see photos). Passing Fountains Abbey we cycled along Watergate Lane admiring the views if not enjoying the climb. Then it was past the Drovers to Ripley where pork pies were mentioned longingly and apparently the church cafe was open but we were all too full! Home via the Greenway. 33 miles. Liz P





Wednesday Ride

Eight riders set off to the Greenway on a rather grey day. Down to Birstwith and on to Darley where Tall Paul was faced with a broken chain, all mended in 10 minutes so no drama. We set off up the ill named Low Lane on a very hilly route to eventually find Duck Street. Cycling through what looked like rain but fortunately it was only low cloud (according to Colin) so that was all good!

Next stop Greenhow Hill and Toft Gate Barn Café. A warm welcome and a cosy escape from the wind was what we found. Coffee and cakes/bacon sandwiches was just what we needed to replace lost energy expended on the hilly 21 miles so far. Back on to Duck Street and a right turn to cycle down the side of Thruscross reservoir this was a really beautiful route and the weather had lifted so pleasant cycling.

Across the A59 at Blubberhouses Church and more hills until we turned left towards Timble. A puncture for Sue handily close to the toilets/picnic area. The group was given a master class in the skill of inner tube changing by Colin we never stop learning! Back home via Little Almscliffe the sun had actually made an appearance and with wind behind we sailed home. Thanks to Tall Paul, Paul T, Colin, James, Charlie, Alan, Sarah for excellent company and mechanical support. 44 hilly miles Sue C



Long Ride

A chilly wind greeted us as we assembled at Hornbeam, prompting the question of whether the change to lightweight bikes and lighterweight clothing had been wise. A more obvious lack of wisdom appears at the new Toucan crossings at Claro Road, where the confusion of signals for

pedestrians and cyclists is, in my view, downright dangerous. Once past this new hazard, combined groups of longer rides mingled down to Ripley.

Today, hills were welcomed as opportunities to get warmed up, such was the chilling effect of the wind. Various ramps along the way to Grewelthorpe served us well, bringing us to Masham for a coffee stop. Being habitues of either Bordar's or J Baghdad's, we followed our habit into Market Square, only to be hauled back by Richard P and directed to the Methodist church, for their drop-in coffee morning. Two volunteers gave us a very warm welcome into their now empty tearoom and despite arriving close to closing we had drinks and biscuits in a true church hall atmosphere. After a brief look round the restored beauty of the chapel, family commitments drew Lesley & Richard S away, leaving four to accede to David R's suggestion of over the top to Lofthouse. Into a head wind out of Masham, fears grew about the slog to come - as far a brim-full Leighton Reservoir these fears seemed justified. The reservoir has not been as full for several years - no wasteland with distant anglers today. We had seen "Road Closed" signs on the way up to the first cattle grid, where a dutiful sentry told us that it really was closed to all traffic, owing to resurfacing of Trapping Hill. Fortunately the long climb up to Jordan Moss was in the lee of the hill, allowing us to summit more or less as a group(photo). Descending to Lofthouse we met the road gang who felt moved to apologise for causing us to walk the last 100 yards to the outskirts of the village. Teacups hosted us for a late lunch, a bone-gnawing dog adding to the rurality of the occasion. The hoped-for gentle ride down the valley to Ripley proved to be very different. Richard L hit a pot hole (photo) and went down hard, staying down for several minutes. Following, I avoided the wreckage but also went down on the soft verge when the front wheel hit a tyre rut full of soft mud. Richard struggled on to Burnt Yates, where rescue came from home to collect him. No bones were broken, but some sore ribs will keep him from coughing, sneezing or laughing for a few days. Commiserations Richard; the hole has been reported. The restorative powers of tea and cake were once again proven at Ripley church, now for another summer season offering refreshments to needy cyclists.

A ride of unwelcome incident ended quietly after 57 miles and 3800 ft ascent.

Terry Smith

Ride Report to follow.





EGs Ride

They always say that the "best laid plans of mice & men", etc. and significant reconstruction work at Eccup dam, cutting off the path & bridleway, sealed our fate, forcing a rethink and an early return to base. Notwithstanding this our ride had been, so far, fairly uneventful.

Following the first refreshment stop at Morrison's, Wetherby, eleven E.Gs continued towards Otley at a leisurely pace, enjoying the "craque" (is this Irish?), heading for our next stop at "Cafe Café"

Despite the "Cafe-Shock" management coped fairly well and duly refreshed we gathered for phase three of the ride which was designed to test the legs of one and all.

Several riders declined the challenge and abandoned the group, heading off home under slowly improving skies. The remainder, six in all, including brave and courageous Bob, took a deep breath and attacked the hill up Chevin towards Cookridge. We must congratulate Bob for not only attempting the Chevin, but reaching the summit in good time, accompanied and encouraged by Eric, (Thanks again, Eric), despite having to circumvent the annoying break-down vehicles three quarters way up.

It was now time for Bob to apply his local knowledge to guide us around & through Cookridge towards Five Lane Ends and the intended route past Eccup. This he did admirably but as previously noted our route was barred by the reconstruction works. So about face and off we set down Weardley bank, aiming for Kirkby Overblow and home, via the A61, which was a little scary as the traffic was quite heavy and brisk. The leader, when attempting a head count thereafter was side-stepped into thinking we had lost a rider only to be told he'd disappeared off ahead. A couple of riders departed towards Pannal and the remainder returned via Rudding Lane across Wetherby road. All in all we completed about 50 miles under cloudy skies and at times a cold breeze.

Dave Watson



