

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

Wednesday Rides

Short ride

Only four riders for the short ride. Max, Kevin & Allan joining me. Riding via Luchon Way, Jennyfields and Ethelburgers to the Army camp where Max and Kevin left us taking the shorter route home.

Allan and I continued up Penny Pot Lane and across to the A59 at the Black Bull. We then had a long downhill with a strong following wind down to Hampsthwaite, returning via Ripley and the Greenway. About 18 miles. Dennis B

Poddlers' Ride

As we tried to leave Hornbeam we got muddled up with another group which meant that Mike was swept up with the big boys and never seen again. Fortunately the rest of us met up on the Stray and headed together for the Greenway though it was decided that the new cycle crossing to Claro Road would be given a miss in future with a green light facing us across the road but traffic still speeding by. (Look to your right not straight on!)

We were rather perplexed to see the fast group loitering in Ripley but headed past and on to Hollybank Lane to admire the bluebells, pose for a photo and sing Happy Birthday to Caroline. (I am told that the choir needs more practice!) We then headed through Burnt Yates and up to Brimham. The views were glorious after last night's deluge and spells of sunshine were enjoyed though the strong headwinds were not so popular!

At Brimham Caroline and Sue D headed straight back for other commitments while Keith headed off to inspect Dallowgill. A party of seven headed for Sawley then towards Fountains Abbey but heading up towards How Hill. As we approached the last big hill on Watergate Lane, Liz F had a very close encounter with a cow but fortunately survived intact. A fast downhill to Ripley where 5 of us indulged in hot drinks and cake then it was home via the Greenway. 31 miles, 1745 ft of climbing. Liz P



Wednesday Ride

A flat ride out to Beningborough Hall was the target for eleven of us on a chilly but dry morning. Moving along at a brisk pace, mostly to keep warm, we arrived at Aldwark Bridge to be asked to keep in single file as they were repairing the bridge. Well, two blokes were wielding a spanner at the edge of the bridge, obviously having received qualifications from the Mr Bodger School of Construction. We quickly headed off to Beningborough in warming and increasingly sunny conditions and were able to sit outside on the nice new seating area. This cafe is looking up and the surroundings and service now easily match the bacon sandwiches! Comments about

Paul parking his delightful Thorn steed well away from all the other bikes (obviously all too scruffy to be seen near his shining bike) were brushed aside by Paul in his usual dignified manner. But perhaps his mind was on tonight's Sunderland nail biting game. Kevin, however, made him feel better by saying that his Sturmey Archer gears looked quite nice in red. The return route was on the Sustrans track NCN66 around the back of the airfield and then we returned to Aldwark Bridge to find them lifting up a plank over half the width of the bridge — with the traffic still running. Videos on You Tube are less entertaining than this. Must be one hell of a risk assessment. Some then returned direct home from Great Ouseburn and the rest headed up the delightful back lane to Aldborough, and a hardy few stopped for more tea in Boroughbridge. Then it was homeward into the wind. A good 45 mile day. Martin W.



EGs' Ride

We had fifteen riders at Low Bridge. The forecast was looking good. The day also started good by a very warm welcome back from Sarah (can stand any amount of the nice welcomes). Our original intention was to head for Home Farm Cafe at Benningborough and then on to Easingwold.

However Wheel Easy Wednesday's were heading there to, so to prevent "cafe shock" the route was reversed.

So on to Boroughbridge, at the Occaney downhill competition Dave (Wonderwheels) Siswick, reasserted his authority as champion, by leaving last weeks champion's Bob and Norman, behind.

At the Milby turn off, Norman and Roy left the group to head for Ripon.

The remaining group comprising an "A" and "B" team headed for Easingwold. The "B" team was nicely paced by Bob and Theo, who led us to the curious table cafe. The "A" team eating at the bakery cafe, again "cafe shock" avoided.

At the Alne cross roads, Bob and Theo left the "B" team to return home, the rest continued to Tollerton and Home Farm cafe to find the "A" team sitting in the sun, full of caffeine and cake (see photo). Then it was back home with a combined team, into the wind. Thanks to Dave S for some serious wind pushing and pacing.

The traditional "banana" break was held at Branton Green, with some of the fast and furious continuing on. Then home to Knaresborough and Harrogate in wind and sunshine. Brilliant cycling weather, good company, a lorra laughs (sorry Cilla) and factoids from Terry W, mileage anywhere between mid and high fifties. Dave P



Long Ride

The promise of a warmer dry day resulted in 8 riders electing for the long ride. Selecting a route proved a little taxing with requests like "not too hilly", "not too far", "not too fast" and "I can't be back too late" to contend with. Destination was soon agreed upon as How Stean Gorge Cafe. Our route took us along the Greenway and out on the Fountains Rd before turning left on the grind up to Brimham (The head wind was quite strong). From there we swooped down to Glasshouses and then made our way up upper Nidderdale where there was more shelter. At Ramsgill a decision was made to visit the lower dam at Scar House. The three mile 3-5% climb was strenuous into a strong head wind, but the views at the top worthwhile. We regrouped and sped to the cafe where, as usual at Stean, the welcome was enthusiastic and the food plentiful.

After lunch we made brisk progress down the valley with the strong tail wind. We then climbed Yorke's Folly (few complaints) and quickly made our way back to Harrogate.

Ride Stats :- 59 Miles, 1156 Metres climbing. Martin D

