

Wednesday, June 3, 2015

Wednesday Rides

Short Ride

The morning seemed fine weather wise, lots of people lurking ready and waiting at Hornbeam, a beautifully orange Paul T kindly announced the rides, and no new people seemed to appear to want to do a slower, steadier, shorter ride. However deep joy Mrs Clarke Kent appeared, Nicky announced she wanted a short ride as she thought they were a brilliant idea and should be encouraged, and Sue D kindly thought she'd play too. We eventually headed off towards the Greenway via the side of the hospital path and Bogs lane and rode to Ripley in a stately manner. Onwards round the roundabout to Nidd and straight into Lord Mountgarret's front garden to do the loop back onto the Main Ripon road and Ripley for coffee and cake thanks to the Ladies of Ripley Church. As we ambled home Dennis caught us up and said he'd left the other group at Occaney and needed to rush onwards to his half past 12 roasted potatoes. Thank you I had a lovely morning of gentle Poddling. Not an enormous number of miles covered or feet climbed or speed reached but very pleasant... Thank you all involved.CG

Poddler's Ride

About 16 opted for Poddling, too many for one group, so Paul B was 'volunteered' to lead a sub-group (to his credit, he didn't demur or complain too much). It wasn't raining or too windy or too cold (but it wasn't particularly warm for June), and our first group set off through town for the ASDA cycle path and Dragon Bridge. I had obviously not explained the route clearly, as Paul took his group past the front of ASDA, and consequently reached Knox before we did, even though he set off after us. We crossed the A61 and headed down to Hampsthwaite, where Paul resigned as sub-group leader, and we proceeded as one group up Clint Bank Lane to the turning for Hollybank Woods and on to Ripley. Left along Pateley Bridge Road in a disciplined and orderly fashion (groups of 4 spaced to allow cars to overtake and pull in easily), up Scarah Hill Rd to the space where the Drovers was. Marish was not feeling too good, and she wisely called it a day and went back. On to Markington and Wormald Green and up the footpath along the side of the A61 to the turn to Burton Leonard, where we took the photo on the village green and Dennis left us. We took little diversion around Burton Leonard and on towards Copgrove, Occaney and the top of Sandy Lane, where John R on his new Bike, Friday, and Alison N left us. Farnham, Scotton and Nidd took us to the A61 again and Ripley, where coffee and cakes in the church were welcome for the 9 or 10 of us left. Some pleasant and possibly contentious discussion on words and etymology ('idolect' was the word Paul brought to the table), and then home along the Greenway.

About 32 miles (a bit longer than advertised).



Wednesday Ride

Arrived at Hornbeam after drive from Shadwell to discover we were going with my plan! So, back to Leeds it was, Templenewsom the target via coffee at Roundhay Park, 8 people following, Charlie, basically cycling home! The sun couldn't decide if it was out or in on our route to Leeds through Burn Bridge, Kirby Overblow, Sicklinghall, Linton, Collingham and Scarcroft. We reached Slaid Hill and used part of the repaired tarmac that the Tour de Yorkshire had enjoyed as we approached Roundhay Park. The sun was out and we sat outside drinking coffee, eating cake! Paul, Charlie and Stuart returned to Harrogate. The remaining 5 taking the largely off road route to Templenewsom, where we saw the spectacular display of rhodadendrum, then began the return journey back to Roundhay, on through Alwoodley, down Weardly bank, up to Kirby Overblow and retracing our steps through Burn bridge and back to Horn beam. The sun was now definitely out and adding to the post cycle glow. A few new bits of road for some and just under 50 miles according to Kevin. Sarah R



Long Ride

Adopting the headwind out, tailwind home principle, five set off towards Ilkley via Old Pool Bank and were blessed with a saintly driver on A61 who allowed us to make the right turn to Duneswick by virtue of slowing and flashing. On to Pool bridge via Castley Lane, by which time it was clear that Martin was still in recovery from Sunday's windy epic, including Cote de Cray. We agreed to meet him in Ilkley but he must have opted for a return home. All of which shows that it's the bike that's the machine, not the rider.

Concerning machines, Pool filling station was occupied by perhaps 50 or more motorcycles and riders at some form of gathering. All seemed to be grey-haired and the machines very expensive, so it seemed unlikely that a turf war was about to break out. Still, it was a rare sight, leading to musings on the collective noun for a gathering of bikers - best so far are a clutch or a throttle.

Old Pool Bank led us to the Chevin where the Good Friday cross still stands, but with Easter season now over it's probably a case of the removal team agreeing a date.

How much more busy are the roads south of the Wharfe! We were accompanied by vehicles of some sort all the way along the moor road into Ilkley. Christ Church cafe once again hosted us for lunch, over which route options were mulled over. We settled on Bolton Abbey and Stump Cross, but we didn't really mean it. A straw poll at the Langbar turn opted for a crack at the 1 in 5, to take advantage of the tailwind. Our picture shows Peter and I just about to reach the lay-by parking spot. Back along the valley road towards Otley, we awarded ourselves another cafe stop at Cockpit Farm, after which it was back via Farnley, Stainburn, the Crag, North Rigton and Burn Bridge. The tailwind strategy certainly paid off this time - by the time we tackled the final couple of climbs the temperature was rising to the forecast, leaving the prospect of a warm balmy evening to come.

In all, a very enjoyable ride of c57 miles and c 4600 ft. climbed, with the route being everything you would expect from a committee!

Terry Smith



EG's Ride

Looking like good cycling weather, however even though it was the first ride in June, there was still a few knees uncovered.

Soon we had fourteen riders at Low Bridge.

Spa Gardens cafe was the first coffee stop, and away went a fast group of four, to warm the roads and get the kettle on, followed by a sedate ten riders.

At the men's downhill championship at Occaney, reigning Champion Dave S was full of confidence and a few pounds of Italian pasta.

The result was in no doubt, Dave S was there again, however lightweight Dave W put up a good show.

After caffeine and cake (taken outside) in the sun, well it is June, I think?

It was on to Wath where Dave Watson led a magnificent seven north towards Middleton Quernhow, and Dave P led a slightly less magnificent seven to Melmerby, Topcliffe and Boroughbridge for afternoon tea at Morrison's Cafe or was it surgery?, because ailments were discussed in great detail.

This was quite understandable considering the average age of the group, consisting of Bill, Dave P, Theo, Terry W, Roy and youngsters Michael and Norman.

A good ride in good weather, well in to the high forties in terms of miles. Dave P

EGs Ride (Supplementary)

From Wath, leaving several EGs to continue on their way south via Melmerby the remaining seven headed, in a roundabout way, towards Bedale taking in Sutton Howgrave and Carthorpe. Lunch was taken at the value for money Farmshop Cafe in the square from where we then headed, with the wind on our backs, along the busy A684 aiming for Kirby Wiske and Thirsk. A good pace was maintained towards home passing through Topcliffe and Cundall arriving in Boroughbridge with adequate time for those who needed to top up their coffee quotas.

The remaining four continued at what appeared to be a gradually increasing pace, (thanks Peter!), homeward anticipating welcome refreshments upon "reaching base".

We were fortunate with the weather, although westerly winds had slowed our outward leg a little. The sun had continued to shine on us and temperature were a significant improvement on Sundays.

We managed a creditable 70 plus miles, indeed some of us reached 76 miles, a good score for the EGs. David Watson



