

Wednesday, June 17, 2015

## Wednesday Rides

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### Short Ride

Today's Short Ride saw some comings and goings as we set off from Hornbeam with 4 of us comprising Linda, Peter, Laurie and myself and just the other side of the M&S traffic lights we lost Linda who was not feeling too well and decided to return home (hope you are ok now Linda). The remaining three then headed for Beckwithshaw and battled against the wind to Little Almscliff, collecting but soon being outdistanced by Sarah R, Angela and another lady on the way and eventually being caught by Gia, Martin, John R and Paul, so all of a sudden 3 became 10! We original 3 thought it must be our charisma that was attracting others to join us, but we were soon disillusioned as it became clear the weather forecast was the deciding factor. From Little Almscliff the original 3 plus John and Martin headed past the Sun Inn, over the A59 towards Menwith, whilst the remainder put in an extra loop via Timble. Having turned along the back of the Menwith Hill station we picked up a good following wind and flew down to Hampsthwaite and into Sophies, just in time to beat the rain, shortly to be joined by the rest after their Timble loop. After suitable refreshment, good conversation and a quick photo opportunity we headed up Clint Bank and along Holly Bank and the Greenway to go our several ways home. Despite the wind we had some fresh air in good company and avoided getting too wet. Thanks to all for your company. James G



### **Poddlers' Ride**

A small but perfectly formed group of only 5 poddlers headed north west towards Brimham rocks and the gathering clouds. Our route took us across Knox bridge to Hampsthwaite and the grind up Clint Bank. At Brimham the rain came down so given the option of continuing on the full route via Fountains or a shorter route we all agreed on the latter. Having turned towards Warsil the rain soon fizzled out and we stayed dry (mostly) back down Scarah Bank to Ripley. No takers for coffee but we came up behind the short ride who had probably eaten all the best cakes anyway. We heard from Max and Caroline that the WheelEasy trip to Bavaria was great and look forward to hearing more stories and seeing the pics. 27 miles. Dave Griffin





### **Wednesday Ride**

After Sunday's soaking the weather forecast got the better of several Wheel Easy riders today who joined James' short ride in the direction of Sophie's. At Little Almscliff, Paul, new rider, Janet, welcome to you, Sarah R, Angela and Gia agreed on an additional route which made the final total miles 28, not too bad.

We met up with James' group at Sophie's and came home via the Greenway, meeting Caroline on our return.

We had some rain but nothing like Sunday but still good to be out. Gia.

An exclusive trio set off for Toft Gate Farm cafe with impending rain on the menu. We set off dry and arrived home dry but Duck Street offered fine weather for mallards and we were soaked on arrival at the cafe. However a flaming fire for not flaming June perked us up as did fine scones, bacon roll and hot beverages. We whizzed home wind mainly behind via Penny Pot and Birk Crag. Thanks Kevin and Stuart for great company 38 miles cycled Sue C



### **Longer Ride Report**

Not for the first time this year, the elements played their cruel trick of prefacing Weds rides with two excellent cycling-weather days. The forecast dictated our route: while fresh, head west into the wind before the rain comes and aim to be assisted home with wind and rain at our backs. Being fresh certainly helped our progress into the wind to Little Almscliff, and it turned out that it was one of the few unsheltered slogs of the day. Progress to Askwith was via Fewston's toilets, Timble and Low Snowden, which took us away from the quarry trucks - most welcome. Light rain came on time at 11.00 after which a group cycling from Bolton Abbey informed us that it was chucking it down back there! Indeed it was - we squelched into Abbey Tea Rooms, looking to sit out the heavy rain. One of our number suggested tartly that the fabled slow service might suit our purpose well today! Perhaps we should have ordered more complicated menu items, because we left in steady, if easing, rain. Shelter was the watchword from here, taking us past Cavendish Pavilion and on to the climb up to the ancient oak. Rainwear came off for the climb from the Appletreewick turn, only to be hurried back on again for the climb to Stump Cross, which appeared to be in the mist. It could have been February, except that it was nicely warm. Conditions improved after Greenhow for the descent back home via Menwith, Pennypot, Oakdale and The Duchy. Near Menwith, we met Peter R for whom circumstances had dictated that he begin his ride in mid-afternoon - sensible fellow! Needless to say, by the time we neared Harrogate the weather was set fair for a fine, if still breezy, late afternoon and evening. Our thanks go to Martin who captained our ride and kept us all involved in the decision making. He showed indefatigable qualities today on his steel Edinburgh tourer (see photo) which, I understand, he wishes to sell. Stats for today: c54 miles, c3500 ft ascent. Terry Smith



### **EG's Ride**

The weather forecast was not too good, which is probably why we only had eight riders at Low Bridge.

Fortunately (for some of us) they were the older and perhaps less fitter end of the EG`s, with the exception of Dan of course.

So it was straight to Wetherby, and Morrisons cafe, to see if the forecast rain appeared.

Morrisons toasted teacake squad was on form again, with the ordered said teacakes appearing before the till was reached.

Talking of being on form, Dan again excelled with a small snack comprising, Tea, Eggs Benedict, Beans on Toast, Fresh fruit salad, Orange Drink, Caramel Square, Napolitaner Wafer, and a piece of fruit.

But the wow factor being only eleven quid at Morrisons.

Dave W had to leave us here, so a magnificent seven headed for Bramham on the various cycle paths, including one of a wild nature.

The climb from Bramham to Alwoodley was just as long as always, though it was only slightly damp with a mild wind in your face.

But all this was rewarded by an excellent LEISURELY lunch at the New Inn, with soup and sandwiches etc, in fact it was more like an EG`s Luncheon Club, rather than the quick snack then eyeballs out on the road we usually do.

The weather was better than forecast, the mileage just under forty, but who cares, let`s have a day off and it`s just good to be out. Dave P

