

Wednesday, August 19, 2015

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers' Ride (1)

It seemed like the gods were looking after us with a warm, sunny morning after Tuesday's heavy rain and the forecast rain for Wednesday evening.

After a brief discussion following the announcement that Caroline was retiring from organising the Poddlers and a decision to continue at the coffee stop, we set off with a group of about sixteen on a scenic route to Boroughbridge.

By Knaresborough Low Bridge we were down to thirteen with the remaining three dropping out to do their own thing.

On to Farnham, Bishop Monkton and Roecliffe where two more left us to return to Harrogate.

The rest of us carried on to Boroughbridge where we continued our discussions regarding the organisation of the Poddlers. Various ideas were suggested with no final decisions being made and an agreement to consider what had been suggested.

After our coffee stop, several more riders decided to head straight back to Harrogate leaving seven of us to continue to Aldborough and Grafton. At this point I was stopped by an urgent phone call and had to let Glynn continue to lead the remaining riders back through Arkendale and Knaresborough to Harrogate.

Hopefully everyone got home safely by one route or another. Andrew H





Poddlers Ride (2)

Glorious morning, words from Gia, newly formed Group departed, repodded Poddlers' start chatting as we leave the car park. Jen and Kevlar covered Monica had kindly decided to join this almost historic event. We toured the outskirts of Knaresborough still exercising our jaws as much as our legs. Heading for Boroughbridge, true to form my gears seized up. The cycling style became a very fast Froome like pedal getting nowhere in an un-Froome like manner. So back home to Veloheads to get it sorted out, Jen assured me she would look after Monica and off they gossiped continuing the ride. I returned towards home, bicycle suddenly mending itself after it went over a pothole. Thank you for your company I wish I could have finished the ride, it was relaxing and very entertaining. 26 or 31 miles gently poddled. Caroline G

Wednesday Ride

By contrast to the weather on Tuesday, today was warm and sunny as we gathered at Hornbeam and as it is August and the height of the season for moorland heather the Wednesday group headed for some hills in the shape of Little Almscliffe, Timble and Snowdon Moor. The effort to get to the top of Snowdon Moor, either on the main road by some or the lower road by others was well rewarded with some beautiful views over Wharfedale and some lovely purple hues of the heather on the hills. It was also rewarded with the swoop down into Asquith! Turning right we found, as others before us, that Cockpit Farm is now only open from Thursday to Sunday and so onward to Leathley and the Farm Shop/Cafe at Pool, where a leisurely break in warm sunshine was enjoyed by all. Four then departed for a direct run home over Almscliffe and North Rigton, whilst the rest of us took a slightly more leisurely route through Castley to Kirby Overblow and home.

35 or so miles in excellent company and home by early afternoon! Thanks to all and to Gia for the photo. James G





Wednesday Long Ride

Four set off through the showground, headed for the flat lands south of York. First pit stop at the help yourself honesty cafe at Naburn Station involved debating criminal punishment from litter picking up to the death penalty, before continuing via Stillingfleet and Cawood to lunch in the garden at Church Fenton, where dogs became the subject of conversation (mental note made not to take mine in the vicinity of the Rossett schools). Onwards into an increasing headwind before turning north at Scholes (seemingly a Britain in Bloom contestant). At Thorner we split into Knaresborough and Harrogate bound pairs, at which point Martin D declared his intention to complete the entire ride on his big chain ring. I could hear his knees groaning from 50 metres back, but he duly did so.

68 miles and back just before the rain. Richard L

EGs' Ride

Following our first break at Spa Gardens, when 3 left us to follow their own route home via Wath, the remaining five decided to take advantage of the forecasted warm and fine weather and direct our attention to driving forth towards Grey Garth.

Climbing up via Galphay we made good time despite Nick's problematic front mech. dropping its chain several times. Gradual adjustment soon overcame this and we arrived at Grey Garth to be welcomed by a wonderful view of the purple heather.

To add to Nick's problems he was attacked by what was thought to be a wasp which caused him some mild panic and to swiftly remove his helmet, continuing likewise until he was confident the wasp had departed.

Lunch at Johnny Bagdads, Masham was followed by further hills but later swooping down through Snape and heading off towards home through Wath & Ripon.

Thankfully we arrived home just before the first showers materialised, completing approx. 60 miles.

As the saying goes, Dave S. "Good Weather, Good Company & a Good Route. Dave W

