

Wednesday, January 13, 2016

## Wednesday Rides

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### Poddlers Ride

Was it too frosty? Was it raining? Was it snowing? Was it damp?.....Well no not really. So with an outside temperature of 1C in the garden, a clear sky and no mizzle, no wind, a puddle free road, there was no excuse to stay in bed. Up and off to Hornbeam where a goodly number of people with bikes looking somewhat shell shocked by the near glorious conditions. Having no desire to follow plan A to Brimham we decided on plan B....to follow the Wanderers on their very cunning route up a hill or two, down a bit, along nearly main, and thus probably frost free roads to Knaresborough, Farnham, Bishop Monkton, Markington, Ripley and home. We set off, cycled a bit and then.....a strange thing happened ..... we realised that we seemed to have lost the Wanderers as soon as we set off, there were no tell tale cycle track where we cycled or flashes of yellow in the distance....had they changed the route, or got lost. As we headed towards Markington a familiar yellow jacketed figure leapt out of the bushes....Martin seemed to have lost the Big boys and girls, but was not too distraught, and happily went off in another direction. Then as we came to the centre of Markington, we were swamped by cyclists all loudly wondering where our short cut was. Little do they know what a couple of old witches can do to magically get ahead. This rabble of wheels disappeared as quickly as they had appeared, leaving us to chat with Dennis who accompanied us home in a gentlemanly manner. Thank you to the back, front and side marker, a pleasant way to do a bit of exercise. 66 floors climbed, 12,875 paces covered, 1,290 calories consumed, CG.

### Wednesday Ride

Despite the frost and word of ice in the outposts of Pannal there was a good turnout at Hornbeam today. We agreed that with the rides would not be led due to the conditions but three groups happily followed the notional leaders out of the car park.

James, John and Kevin collaborated to "not lead" ten of us to Boroughbridge via Goldsborough, Arkendale and Marton cum Grafton. Martin riding to meet us after dropping off a small thank you to HACS who have done a great job of cleaning Hollybank Woods for us. Martin was definitely feeling the cold as he arrived at Bean Vintage in Boroughbridge. He did reveal that in order to keep warm this was his second coffee stop.

Paul and John returned to Harrogate for appointments, Martin went home via Minskip as he had already done the miles the other way round, Richard and Lesley returned via Roecliffe and the rest of us suitably warmed after a somewhat chaotic coffee stop rode back through Skelton and Ripon. After the photo stop Charlie and Terry rode on to Fountains and the rest of us back to Knaresborough via Littlethorpe. A good ride, lovely company as always, we saw the sun and it was definitely worth being out on the bikes. Gia



### EGs Ride

The weather forecast was good, with bits of blue and sun, yes sun to be seen, but a bit nippy for fingers and toes whilst waiting at Low Bridge.

Whilst waiting there, some Poddlers arrived including Dennis B who is having an op tomorrow.

Best wishes Dennis from the EG`s who as a group probably have more bits of metal and plastic and various devices stuck in their bodies than most, it can only make you go faster Dennis.

For the EG`s it was a welcome back to Nick who has had treatment for illness.

Soon we had twelve riders ready to depart.

The group then set off for the Occaney downhill, due to the rain we had encountered lately we could not have been described as the "dirty dozen" however some stupid driving in our mist and the "repremand" received may have caused some drivers to wonder who they were surrounded by.

The downhill was again taken by Dave S closely followed by Bob.

At the Occaney ford Norman was all ready to take photos of the group tackling a "hazard" however the hazard proved to be less than hazardous, so no photos.

The group then split in to two, group one led by Dan eager to challenge the catering abilities of Wetherspoons probably two breakfasts instantaneously (or quicker).

Bob led the more sedate group two.

After caffeine and lots of calories, though as it is free coffee refills the caffeine count must have also been high, Nick who needed to take it steady, first time back, headed for home.

The remaining eleven then headed North for Wath, here Bob, Norman and Terry turned of for Melmerby to return via Topcliffe and Boroughbridge the remaining eight continuing North to Kirkington and then East to Ainderby Quernhow and Skipton on Swale where at the Canadian Memorial someone had placed the Canadian flag, this seemed an apt place for a photo, seeing as an EG remembered Canadian servicemen in this country.

There were flood signs, and one ice sign on the minor roads, but all were passable, then on to Topcliffe, Cundall, Norton le Clay and Boroughbridge where three Daves continued to Knaresborough, the remaining group unable to get rid of their Dave, entered Morrisons cafe for afternoon tea.

It was here that young Dan demolished a large burger and trimmings, but Eric not letting the old side down put away sandwiches and a disgusting looking chocolate éclair stuffed with cream.

Colin, Dave P and Peter J could only look on in wonderment.

Then it was back in some sun to Harrogate, where at the top of the cycle path we met Bob again, who had also taken tea in Boroughbridge.

An excellent ride of over 50 miles in good winter weather, the slight nip in the air reducing the tendency to "boil in the bag". Dave P



### **Wednesday Wanderers Ride**

There was ice about so caution was to the fore (Liz F had already had a tumble). A dozen of us set off to Knaresborough, not via the showground as planned but on main roads to avoid said ice.

Dennis was savouring his last ride before being placed in the hands of Mr Sawbones for a new knee (Gawd Bless the NHS and all who ail in her). He'll be out for 6 weeks and then the target is to train for the Acorn finale in May.

Alan, who probably got up late, headed us off at the Copgrove pass turning us into a lucky thirteen. So, on to Bishop Monkton and Markington, scooting past a couple of Poddlers (including La Grande Dame elle-même) and then to Ripley, where there were no takers for a cafe stop.

Gordon reckoned we'd do 23 miles but I got it up to a nice 26-mile winter's outing.

Andrew at the back reported that they'd all behaved themselves. Mostly.

Oops forgot to take a pic. Paul B

### **Great Clean-up Report**

Great clean up day of the showground path through Hookstone Woods yesterday when 19 Wheel Easy members turned out to clean up the path. This is a great result and together with Hollybank Woods clean up by HACS means that Wheel Easy and the great general public have nice clean paths for cycling. Sorry to those who missed out on the photo and thanks to Terry Smith for great organisation and such a speedy clean up that we had time for coffee in Indulge too! Gia



