

Wednesday, January 20, 2016

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers Ride

Too cold, too frozen, but two other Poddlers were keen to cycle. A grumpy frozen fingered ride leader was cheered by the strange sight of Sue C. sporting a wetsuit hood as a rather attractive piece of warming head gear under the bike hat.....even better than Dave G's shower hat protection against rain. Has anyone any other protective hints. After lots of warnings we set off warily to Low Bridge, Knaresborough, where we met the E.Gs who did not seem to notice the hazardous ice rink conditions. At this point the Poddlers' were near to being ride leaderless due to a case of hypothermia and frost bite. Having bravely traversed the glacier of Abbey Lane, we headed to Farnham, where the sun was pretending to be sunny and the glacial conditions had almost disappeared. We followed the more main route to Boroughbridge where Tasty Snacks offered us coffee and for Di her breakfast.... a bacon and egg bap. With the weather almost barmy by now, as we continued through the Dunsfords, over the old A1 and the A1 back to Ferrensby, Knaresborough and finally home. What a lovely ride. Thank you to the front markers, back markers and side markers for being so determined to cycle....it was a glorious ride on a super day, once we warmed up. 18,701 paces, 13.08kilometers covered(thus converted actually 31 to 33 miles on a bike), 99 floors climbed, 2014 calories used up.....by some who did not add any..... according to my Fitbit. (A bit like a Garmin but more gentle and less useful.) CG



Wanderers Ride

A bright sunny morning and no wind, but watch out, there's ice about!

Steven led an "at your own risk" group of 9 wanderers to the showground via the safer Hookstone Wood Road route, then a very steady descent past the showground, albeit not quite as steady as the usual grind up at the end of a ride. Onward via Rudding Park and Spofforth to Little Ribston, shading our eyes from the low sun and keeping them peeled for the frost patches still in evidence. Sur John jumped ship for the quicker group who we met at the turning for Cowthorpe, leaving 8 wanderers to continue through Cowthorpe and arrive at the Cafe at Thorpe Arch. A very convivial gathering in the tropical heat of the cafe's conservatory then out into the cold and on the cycle path to Wetherby where Andrew turned for home. The 7 remaining agreed that the Harland Way was still likely to be unpleasantly damp and generally grotty so we agreed to return on a route via Kirk Deighton and Knaresborough. 32 miles approx and all safely back. Dave G



Wednesday Ride

Although it was a bright and sunny morning for a change with a nip in the air, there was some concern about frost and possible slippery roads and so there was more than the usual deliberation amongst the Wednesday group as to which way to head or even whether to go for coffee first to give time for the sun to do its work. In the end it was decided to head for Low Bridge at Knaresborough and decide there! The main roads seemed reasonably clear, although EG Dave did say the end of Abbey Road needed a little care. Having negotiated that safely we opted to go the bus route to Wetherby through Little Ribston and having just avoided being swept up by the Wednesday Wanderers we by passed the delights of Morrisons and the company of the EGs and tipped up to Costa in Wetherby for an early caffeine stop. Paul and John then returned home and the remainder, comprising Gia, Monica, Sue, Kevin and myself, felt sufficiently confident to go further and headed out along the cycle path to Walton and then to Cattal and Whixley. At this point there was a general mood to have something to eat and thanks to Gia's ESP we landed up at the Tancred Farm Shop where we enjoyed an excellent selection of soup and hot and cold sandwiches, except Kevin who had the healthy option of half a pig in a white teacake! As time began to press we opted for the main road to the Arkendale turn off and then back through Knaresborough, where you truly dropped off the back and I hope the other four got home safely and that Kevin wasn't late for his granddaughter.. About 35/6 miles in good company on what turned out to be a lovely sunny and enjoyable day. Photos courtesy of Gia. James G





EGs Ride

It was a cold day but the forecast was good and the sun was shining and we had a round dozen riders at Low Bridge (including Bill looking very smart in his new fluorescent bad weather jacket) , soon to be joined by Wheel –Easy Wednesdayer`s.

Our first requirement was to get some hot caffeine inside us ASAP (special request from Bob), which meant we left Low Bridge before the WEW`s, now there`s a first.

For safety sake it was initially three groups to Morrison`s in Wetherby this eventually ran in to two groups. After the comfort of hot caffeine and calories, Rob who is recovering from a back injury returned to Harrogate, for the remaining eleven it was down the cycle path to Thorpe Arch Trading Estate and on to the junction at Wighill where a group of four led by Norman turned left for Wighill and a group of seven comprising 71.4% Dave`s (that`s for those of us interested in figures, of the “numerical type” , take note Eric) turned right for Tadcaster, where Colin out of professional interest turned off to view the bridge, before rejoining us at Bolton Percy.

Just to placate Dave P (the elder) Acaster Selby was visited, but the river was still flowing in the correct direction, however the extent of the flooding could be seen, with muddy fields and a sorry looking flock of sheep wandering through them.

Then on to Acaster Malbis and on to the Solar System cycle path, till we got to the Sun, where Dave Watson who had to return at this time left us, then it was on to York via the Racecourse and through Micklegate Bar to the cyclists cafe just the other side.

An excellent cyclist orientated cafe, however just to digress.

The old gates into the old city of York are referred to as Bars, eg Micklegate Bar, Walmgate Bar, Fishergate Bar etc.

Dave P (the elder) who`s memory is one of the worst, was facing Micklegate Bar, and asked what`s that bar called?.

Quick as a flash, Dave S who was facing in a different direction replied "Wetherspools".

Brilliant !.

Typical EG`s conversation.

Soon the six were heading for Acomb, Rufforth, Tockwith and Cowthorpe arriving at Low Bridge at 3-45pm in brilliant sunshine.

It had been excellent cycling weather, lots of sunshine (not a lot of late), no wind, and a chill in the air to prevent getting a "boil on", the day was too good to waste and a few riders would have had over 60 miles under their wheels when arriving home.

We will be lucky to get another day like this, this winter, but lets keep hoping.

Dave P (the elder)



