

Wednesday, March 9, 2016

Wednesday Ride

Wednesday Wanderers Ride

The weather forecast was bleak and sure enough it was right. I made my way to the new meeting place at Nuffield and skulked in the car park, hoping no-one else would appear. However, Kevin spotted me. No-one else turned up, but Kevin thought we should check the station car park. Sure enough, 2 eager riders, James and Michael[whose name was also on the Wanderers list] were waiting there. Just as we were deciding what to do, Dave and David A rode up. So 3 Wanderers set off with a vague plan to wend their way through the Knaresborough hinterland. The other 3 were planning a ride to Ripon. At Low Bridge we spotted a small assortment of EGs planning their day. At this point, I proposed an egg hunt [for' him at home']. So, Michael led us to Goldsborough, Arkendale, Ferrensby, the egg stop, Knaresborough and Harrogate. We kept telling ourselves it wasn't too bad, until we hit the full force of the wind. David even suggested it might be clearing- however, we refused his crafty move to take us home by a longer route. A wet and windy, but cheerful and convivial ride. We felt 18 miles was about right on another miserable Wednesday. Alison N

Wednesday Ride

This week the white stuff had changed to rain which was forecast to last all day with increasing winds and so it was not surprising that only six hardy souls rocked up at Hornbeam for 9-30. At first I thought I was the only one and then Kevin appeared and reminded me the Wednesday meeting place was now Nuffield car park as an experiment, which was a good start for someone who was supposed to be there in time to remind other members of the change! Having moved into the Nuffield car park it was clear no one else was coming so Alison took two other Wednesday Wanderers off in the direction of Knaresborough and Staveley, whilst Kevin, David and I headed in the same direction with the intention of making for Ripon with as much shelter as possible. After a minor "road rage" incident between David and a Skoda driver at Woodland lights who objected to David using the advanced cycle slot our progress was uneventful round Knaresborough to Bishop Monkton, where Kevin opted for the route to Boroughbridge through Rocliffe, whilst David and I went via Littlethorpe, Skelton and Langthorpe and we met again at Listers Farm Shop café for a very welcome coffee stop. Having dripped all over their floor and enjoyed the warmth of the café and delights of their cakes (see photo) we opted to return through Staveley and Knaresborough, having first put a bit more air in Kevin's front tyre which seemed to hold out, certainly as far as Knaresborough where I "swam" in home and Kevin and David went on home to Harrogate. This is not quite the end of the story, however, as I suddenly remembered when I unpacked my wallet etc. from its waterproof cover that I had not paid and so, not wishing to give Wheeleasy or cyclist generally a bad name as none payers, I returned to the Farm Shop, in the car this time and paid my dues with profuse apologies! 34 very wet miles but with good company and an enjoyable café stop and as David said "it's character building", although at my stage in life I am not sure I want any more! James G.



EG's Ride

The forecast was miserable, and unfortunately (the Met office is getting much better) accurate.

Today we only had four riders (or swimmers ?), comprising 75% Daves and a Peter B.

Wheel-Easy Wednesday's had a slightly better turnout at Low Bridge, comprising Alison and men.

Lets head for Melmerby Industrial Estate and its cafe said Dave W, good ! total agreement, not realising it was directly into the wind and rain.

Despite the headwind Dave S again took the men`s downhill cup at Occaney.

Approaching Boroughbridge the caffeine deficit must have shown in Dave P`s face, for taking pity on said EG Dave W said we could stop at Morrison`s cafe.

Pure joy out of wind and rain, and in the warmth for caffeine and hot cross buns.

Then North in to the face of the wind and stinging rain, from Dishforth the high road in to Rainton was taken.

Four Native North American Warriors, two "Rain in his Face" and two " Wind in his Hair", though while the wind was plentiful, the hair was lacking somewhat.

Then in to Melmerby Ind Estate for more caffeine and 4off baked beans on toast (we will get back at that wind).

For once the weather was consistent, and what hindered going helped us on the way back.

The way back was wet under foot/wheel see photo`s, and the ford at Occaney was flowing fast, not seen like the for a while despite this wet winter.

It certainly was a challenging ride in poor conditions but in a strange way most enjoyable, yes we acknowledge being strange. Mileage in the high forties.

Dave P









Impromptu Thursday Long Ride

All of us had cast-iron reasons for not venturing out on Wednesday – commitments, recovery from ailments, hospital appointments, recuperation miles. But, we'll admit freely that the improved forecast for Thursday did help our resolve to get some miles in. Seven eager riders were gathered in snowball fashion, collecting a few at a time all the way from Rossett to Piccadilly Motors in Knaresborough. Although the deluge and wind of yesterday had gone, it was replaced with biting raw cold reinforced by a northerly breeze. Boroughbridge provided its customary comfort break, after which Richard L and John S, both building their recuperation mileages, headed south to find Tancred Farm Cafe and thaw out a little. We warned them about the goats (see ride report for 24th Feb). Five then picked up the pace to Raskelf and the Purple Partridge for a coffee stop. How popular this venue is becoming and deservedly so. Tea cakes for all except one who opted for the day-old scone, presumably at a discount. A York rider's machine provided a conversation point, through an open window: a 1985 571 steel audax-style bike in immaculate and original condition (Brian Dean the builder). From Raskelf, the ride committee focused on turning south, latching on to Beningbrough Home Farm cafe, where Martin chose the ploughman's, which was surely big enough for two. Discussion of the EU Referendum brought out some cogent views for both sides and showed how abysmal has been the quality of debate in the media so far. Returning via Aldwark Bridge and some re-instated flooding, temperatures at last began to rise as the lie of the land began to rise: eventually Arkendale gave us a balmy 6 degrees and brightening skies. Time for another 10 mile loop? No takers! From Arkendale the snowball melted slowly as riders peeled off for home to be greeted by some sun after 52 miles. Many thanks to all for an enjoyable day out, made more so by its impromptu nature. Terry Smith

