

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers Ride

Not many people at Hornbeam this morning, just like the old days....what a pleasant gathering. The away day must have attracted hundreds.... Having not listened to a word of what was meant to be happening the groups sorted themselves out and three or four possibly groups of varying sizes set off to a variety of destinations. Sophie's, Ripley Church, Boroughbridge via Bishop Monkton, and somewhere else. The rain started as we left Hornbeam car park and continued until Bishop Monkton thus contradicting Ann/e's horror of said village after her experiences there over the weekend. We posed in perfect sunshine, on a bridge, in the sunshine, under the spring blossom cherry trees, before setting heading the Boroughbridge. (This could be developed into a good SATS question I am sure Jen, if only I knew the difference between an adverb and a preposition). After yet another siting of the E.Gs, Monica decided on the café for our Boroughbridge stop, and within minutes we were basking in glorious sunshine continuing conversations started en route, in a casually flower strewn garden, with good cups of coffee and unusually a little something else. I learnt a lot about Chinese, Japanese and Thai food, all about Japanese culture, know all about temptations in Woodhall Spa and had a few interesting book titles recommended, and double recommended by other café users. Our return journey continued in brilliant sun and we tackled Knaresborough Hill to home with minimum whining and smug satisfaction. Thank you Monica, Ann/e and Jen for your excellent company during the 30 plus miles, 18,505 paces, 104 floors and goodness knows what else. A perfect peleton with no nasty shouting, speeding or swishing too close to anyone.CG



Wednesday Wanderers Ride

The sudden change from summer weather did not deter 9 of us from setting off towards Bishop Monkton, Bishop Thornton and finally Ripley church for coffee. Several wanderers had gone up to Leyburn for the 'Away Day', leaving a few speedy men and a more sedate group. It was good to have Angela to up the tally of ladies to 2. Steve was waiting for us at Low Bridge and we all negotiated a very busy Abbey Road. Dennis stayed with us for a while before making his way home. It soon warmed up and the sun shone. At the Drovers 3 more decided to go straight home, leaving 6 of us to complete the circuit through Bishop Thornton, Clint Bank and Ripley. It was well worth it to enjoy the beautiful bluebells in Hollybank woods. The church café lived up to expectations and then it was home along the Greenway. All in all, a very pleasant morning- and back before the afternoon rain.

Alison N.

EG's Ride

We had fifteen riders at Low Bridge, quite a grey day, and dampish.

The forecast could not seem to make its mind up on how it would turn out. A consultation with Colin (who has had many years before the mast) proved very valuable "head North " said he, and how right he was, for the riders who did the whole ride it was a dry day. However it was decided to take an early caffeine break at Morrison`s in Boroughbridge, to check the weather and peoples wants from a ride. Prior to the Occaney downhill, Dave Wilson revealed his VC 167 cycling jersey, whether this was to impress Caroline and Ladies we were not sure, however for you Dave it now PBP and LEL or nothing. The men`s downhill (into the wind) was won by a big distance by Chris (still with beard). After caffeine and calories, group of riders headed for Ripon, and another group of eight (comprising 62.5% Dave`s) headed for Easingwold. Just after Thornton Bridge Dave Watson had to return, and at Easingwold so did Dave S, and also at Husthwaite our wise weather guide Colin had to leave us. So five riders (now only 60% Dave`s) headed for Coxwold still in the head wind, then on to the metalled track to near Thorp Hall, then up the hill to Yearsley Moor, right at Yearsley village and then the great swoop down to Easingwold, and it was fast, Eric hitting over 40mph. After the thrills (fortunately no spills) it was in to the Curious Table for a late lunch. After which it was home via Aldwark Bridge with quite a bit of wind assist, for which some of us were very grateful, arriving in Knaresborough just after 4-15 pm. Harrogate seemed quite damp in parts, (a downpour in fact), which we had missed, thanks again Colin. Distance ? well the Harlow Hillbillies were somewhere in the mid sixties, (and that`s not my age). Dave P





Wednesday Away Day

On a murky day with some prospect of rain we weren't sure who would turn up on Leyburn Market Square for today's ride but we were welcomed by the sight of a number of cyclists in various stages of assembly (bikes) and dress (riders) in preparation for today's ride.

The local bakery was popular for coffee and pastry snacks (some pseudo-science about carbo-loading was being quoted...) and soon 17 riders from all parts of the Club assembled ready for the off.

We set off and immediately climbed out of Leyburn towards Grinton accompanied by a 50 gun salute (or was it squaddies practising on the ranges?) and once past them we felt more comfortable.

We were soon enjoying great views along Swaledale and with a windy descent everyone concentrated on making it safely to the Thwaite turn off and more climbing back up the valley side.

After travelling a good way along the valley the group split into two with the adventurous lot going along the valley bottom on tracks and the remainder of the group sticking to the road on the opposite valley side with the aim of meeting at the cafe for coffee/food.

The road group made it to the cafe first, via Gunnerside, and were met with a less than welcome smile as we began to order our food and drink as we had arrived 5 mins before the designated start time!

However, food arrived in reasonable time and we were tucking into our butties when the track group arrived with tales of tricky surfaces and a few tumbles (but thankfully no injuries).

When everyone was fed and watered we set off towards our main target of the day - the ascent of Buttertubs. We were helped by a tail wind and we steadily climbed up to the top with a few riders touching tarmac but all

made it to up in good time. This was, for some their first ascent and for other the first time from the Thwaite side so we were all mightly pleased.

We now looked forward to enjoying the descent down to Simonstone (no Clarkson in sight!) and then along to the next hotel to check in with James wife who was on a course there. She waved us off as we made our way along the valley to Askrigg for another break where Steve decided to head off on his own to be back early. The remainder split into two cafes for the final refreshment stop before starting the ride back to Leyburn. Andrew had a minor mechanical which he quickly fixed and we

were soon enjoying the ride down the valley before our route threw in a final uphill to Castle Bolton- which felt hard work at this stage of the ride.

On reaching the Castle we set off to Redmire where Colin introduced us to the Redmire bypass- a superb tarmaced, gated road which cut out a great deal of the main road (and the climb out of the village!)

We were now on the final stretch and we all steadily climbed back to the Market Square in Leyburn with smiles on our faces.

A ride of 40 miles with 3,100' of climbing and a few enjoyable challenges which we had all been achieved. Great company and great route(thanks again Colin) and it was a happy, but tired, bunch of Wheeleasy riders who made their way back to Harrogate.

Thanks to everyone who turned out and hope you enjoyed it and are up for the next one in June! Kevin











Long Ride



Long Ride

In homage to the away-day season, six assembled for the long ride at Piccadilly (Motors) on the outskirts of Knaresborough, aiming for a day out to Ampleforth. With a stiff NW breeze, the early miles were through conditions that threatened rain but didn't deliver, keeping our top layers firmly in place as far as the Boroughbridge comfort station. Clouds seemed to be lifting, so layers came off. A good pace was set out towards Thornton Bridge, reprising last Saturday's Acorn ride for several of us. Since then, the cast-iron parapet had suffered damage, with one section missing, presumed lost into the Swale. Temporary lights controlled the bridge (again). Once over the A19 the weather was decidedly more favourable, temperatures rising with the gradients and causing more shedding of layers. Between the Husthwaites lies Elphin Bridge, usually quickly passed through on the way to Coxwold and White Horse. Today, however, the Honesty Cafe caught our eye and, although only 5 miles from Ampleforth, we made a drinks-only stop. Settled adjacent to the original station buildings, dissenters soon mellowed - it was a most agreeable spot for conversation in the now-emerged sunshine. Strident views on a number of world news topics were soon ping-ponging across the table: a casual passer-by might have mistaken us for a Daily Mail focus group but that would have been unfair on us all, I think. Let's put it down to the euphoria and freedom that cycling and such occasions bring. On resumption, the group split with four taking the road through Coxwold while Richard P and I sought out Colley Broach Road, having failed to convince the others that it was rideable on lightweight road bikes. We assembled at the college tea rooms for a light lunch; afterwards Richard P persuaded everyone to try Colley Broach Rd. Apart from some gravel migration, the road was affirmed as recently tarmac-ed and eminently rideable. But, the mystery remains as to why a formerly rough track should be favoured and turned into a metalled, albeit gated, road. Blessed with a stiff tail wind from the east - the reverse of the morning - a familiar route through Easingwold to Aldwark Bridge took us home in warmth and sun. Distances were in the region of 60 miles, with ascents of anything between 1800 and 2700 ft depending on whose instrument you care to choose! Our thanks to Lesley, Richard, John and Martin for a most enjoyable day.

Terry Smith

