

Friday, August 12, 2016

Wanderers' Away Day 12th August

Wanderers' Away Day

A group of ten set off from Pateley Bridge today and headed up to the top of Nidderdale, passing Gouthwaite reservoir and Ramsgill. After Lofthouse we turned on to the Water Board road, the lower end of which had perfect tarmac, prompting comments as to how money from our water bills was spent! As we neared the top the weather took a turn for the worse and also we were full into the strong, westerly winds. My thanks go to Malcolm as at this point he fixed my chain which had stuck and also retrieved my possessions which had blown away in the wind. Eventually we all went to inspect the dam and Scar House reservoir which seemed fairly low. The return was quick and we all headed up to the cafe at Howstean where we were well looked after and soon we were consuming bacon sandwiches, beans on toast (as a salute to the EGs!) scones etc. It was with some reluctance that we left Howstean and Gia, Malcolm and Charlie headed back home while the remaining seven tackled the long steep climb up from Lofthouse.

Alison and Andrew deserved medals for cycling all the way up, lesser mortals walked! The last two to arrive at the top were confronted with five huddling behind the wall insisting that they were not going back! So we swooped down the road, doing our best to avoid suicidal sheep, enjoying fantastic views and sunshine with a short stop at Leighton Reservoir then down into Masham where we consumed, tea, cake and one bacon sandwich at Johnny Baghdad's. From Masham Keith lead for a while, manoeuvring us round a closed road and through Kirkby Malzeard. Then we reached Dallowgill. The views were magnificent, the sun was still shining, the heather was blooming and we were straight into a 40mph headwind. We were slow, we hung on to our bikes for dear life and after a long while we reached the top of the moor and headed, many of us still very slowly, down the very steep hill into a very warm and sunny Pateley Bridge by about 4.30.

We had cycled about 40 miles with 3,300 feet of climbing. Much of the ride was new territory for many of us and at the end we discovered a descent even worse than Yorke's Folly. Think we all agreed it was a Grand Day Out! Liz





