

Friday, August 19, 2016

Friday Away Day

Friday Away Day Ride From Helmsley

We were still in a state of euphoria after the splendid away day from Ingleton on Wednesday, so the cool, grey start with the guarantee of rain did nothing to dent the enthusiasm of the five who rocked up to Helmsley car park today. The five were Andrew, Maris, Keith, Me and Peter B (see happy smiling picture).

It was indeed a pleasant undulating meander in dry conditions through the quiet villages of Harome, Nunnington and Oswaldkirk to our coffee stop in Kirks Cafe in Ampleforth for excellent scones, fine tea and delicious coffee. We were a bit longer than intended as there was quite a bit of World to put right this morning and quite a lot of "Garmin" chat. We have just joined the Garmin Edge Touring Brigade and Andrew has been giving us private lessons. We have therefore progressed from "finding the on switch" to planning routes, saving things, uploading, downloading, cutting and pasting and emitting despairing noises. There was a flurry of simultaneous bleeps from the three on-board Garmins before, during and after every turn today which is quite encouraging. Andrew is setting off for Perpignan with the European Bike Express tomorrow but we still have him on speed dial!

We knew we were heading inexorably for Boltby Bank but there was still no sign of rain as we continued on the Abbey run, pausing to admire Byland and take more pictures (see happy smiling picture). As we approached Boltby the rain did in fact start but we were happy! In brief, Peter B got the gold medal for getting all the way up, in style, without touching Tarmac and the rest of us were disqualified for enjoying a nice walk. Our respective efforts were rewarded with a fine descent into Old Byland, albeit in the face of heavier drizzle and a slight into wind component.

The magnificent Rievaulx Abbey loomed up out of the gloom and we continued on to tackle Rievaulx Bank and this time nobody touched tarmac. Helen awarded herself a gold medal for being first up and disqualified everyone else for being too slow. A short break was taken in a nice warm dry bus shelter (see happy smiling picture) just to finish putting the World to rights before the final, distinctly wet, descent back to Helmsley where we all dispersed for home for hot showers and to dry out.

A most enjoyable 35 miles in soft summer rain. Helen & Keith





