

Wednesday, October 12, 2016

Wednesday Rides

Wednesday Ride

We felt so proud when James announced that the Wednesday ride was organised and had been on the website and was going to Easingwold - so how did we end up in Whixley and Wetherby. Read on dear friends, read on....

Ten riders gathered in the lower car park and were briefed on the route and all nodded agreement so we set off to Low Bridge with dark clouds in the distance and no sign of rain.

From Low Bridge headed for Farnham but decided to follow the cycle path that brought you out at Bar Lane for a change- however we failed to tell Paul who had stopped to take a call so he went on the direct route and after hasty phone calls he waited for us at Arkendale...someone hadn't been on the ride leader course!

From Arkendale we rode on towards Great Ouseburn but just before we turned off towards the village the rain came and we all donned out wet gear. This continued till we reached the village green where a 'ride conference' took place on whether to alter the route and head for Whixley as the rain looked set for a while. Much discussion on this option, Tim called for a vote, the more cautious James for a secret ballot but still no decision..in the end it was decided to head for Whixley and Tancred Farm and before we had reached Thorpe Underwood the rain had stopped!

A good stop at the farm shop with the majority partaking of the bacon butty (easier to get a decision from everyone on that one!). The ride leader then dictated that the revised route would be Cattal, Wetherby and on to Sicklinghall and Kirkby Overblow. So, as we readied ourselves to leave, the rain began again but there was no holding back as we set off in another heavy shower.

Good progress was only halted by the level crossing and then on to the Tockwith road where James left us to pack his trunk ready for his hols.

The remainder rode, in intermittent showers and sunshine, into Wetherby and then encountered the first real climbs of the day as we made our way to Sicklinghall.

After the initial shock we made good progress and we all gathered on the bend towards Kearby and further loop was offered – and quickly rejected- as people could sense the warm showers and early cups of tea!

At Kirkby Overblow the group split into two -one down Walton Lane Head and home the other on to tackle the Showground. John and Paul departed at Walton Park and the remaining three tackled the hill and home.

A good ride -despite the change in plans and a lesson that democracy doesn't always work with a group of cyclists! I am sure we will get better at this advanced planning....

40 plus miles and a really enjoyable group ride (probably because they got their way) and not spoilt by the rain showers.

Thanks to all who joined us today Kevin



EG's Ride

We had ten riders at Low Bridge with the weather forecast being (on the screen) a black cloud with two raindrops falling from it, both at 12 noon and 1300 hrs.

Serious stuff, but aint technology wonderful, in the future no doubt the rain cloud and rain drops will appear as holograms with the rain persisting towards the ground in torrents.

But we do at this moment have the technology to enable devices/screens to envelope themselves in flames to represent, bush fires and volcanic eruptions. (sorry if you own one!!!).

So it was on to Ripon and await the forecast.

At the men`s downhill to Occaney the slight headwind did not help, but it was a close thing, all the lads done good.

Three groups of riders arrived at Spa Gardens Cafe, them as missed the rain, them as arrived in drizzle, and them as arrived in a downpour.

It was warm and cosy in the cafe and riders tended to linger over their morning repast (see photo), but a mans gotta do what a mans gotta do, so it was out in to the cold and wet.

Even then some riders were reluctant to move and were found lurking in the bushes (see photo).

Now whether they were sheltering from the rain, it was just one of those unsavoury habits they had picked up from their murky pasts, is debateable.

The weather was not a complete winner, as 50% headed for home and 50% for Wath and Melmerby with a slight deviation towards Middleton Quernhow.

Now we were heading towards a little bit of blue sky, but over towards Bishop Monkton the rain could be seen falling (sorry you homing birds).

A tail wind aided our run to Boroughbridge, causing Dave Watson to comment on Dave P`s performance, before realising it was wind assisted (no comments).

Afternoon tea was taken in Morrisons by Colin Dave P, Dave Watson and Geoff, with Dave Wilson continuing home.

After which Colin and Dave Watson wanting to get the miles in did an extra loop and Dave P and Geoff headed for home.

As said before all rides are good , if the weather is good, then that`s a bonus.

Dave P.





Wednesday Wanderers Ride

Liz x 2 were in nominal charge today of a group of 12 but on leaving Hornbeam at least 3 different routes were attempted and it was Ripley before we all managed to be in one place at once! The route was through Hollybank Woods and down to Birstwith where Dave, Steve, Dennis and Paul left us to take a shorter route due to time constraints. At Darley the leaders admitted they hadn't a clue where to go and by the time maps were consulted, some of the Wanderers had to be rounded up again - thanks Keith! The way forward was definitely uphill but eventually we reached the Forest Moor bridle path and posed for a quick photo. We turned right on the A59, apart from Keith and David A who headed homewards, and took a small and a bit gritty road down to Fewston. At the bottom it was decided that by the time we reached Timble the cafe

would be closing, so we turned round, went back up the hill and headed for Fewston Farm Shop though the rain soaked us nicely by the time we got there. Most of us enjoyed bacon sandwiches at Fewston and when we left the rain had temporarily stopped but we were unanimous in wanting the quickest route home. We all headed up Pennypot Lane as the rain came down again. Thanks to Andrew for planning a very interesting route though not sure we stuck to it! 1600 feet and about 28 miles. Liz Pugh



Long Ride

There were several unexpected aspects of today's long ride. First, the sunshine at the Hornbeam gathering and then the wind direction (NW instead of ENE) at Piccadilly Motors, where we collected Lesley, Richard and Peter J, to make us into a ten person group. Then there was the leadership, which unexpectedly came simultaneously from the front and the back of the group at one point, leading to some loud calls and u-turns. Good humour prevailed for most of the time, I'm glad to report. We were heading for York and adopted the reverse-Acorn route for a while, during which time the showers began, as forecast. Rainwear went on; rainwear came off again – you know the drill. Mudguardless road bikes were in the majority, which meant that one had to choose carefully who the rider in front was to be and the headway to be given. It didn't always work and by the time we reached Haxby for our first cafe stop we were a mud-bespattered bunch. Haxby is well-blessed with cafes; our choice was Aroma cafe, not the cheapest but certainly cheerful and worth a stop. Ten damp cyclists didn't dent any composure behind the counter. After Haxby, Richard P's lodestone knowledge led us on to York's admirable cycle path network, where we were conspicuous by our wearing of helmets in contrast to the locals who did not – just like Holland. However, only the underpass of the northern ring road could be said to match Dutch cycle planning. Much of York's cycle network is guarded by some rather nasty pinch gates, good for keeping motorbikes out but not friendly for cycles either. Reaching the Orbital route, we progressed clockwise over Strays (originating in similar circumstances to Harrogate's own) to the Millennium Bridge, Knavesmire and Askham Bar for a comfort break. Showers seemed to be less frequent and once past Askham Bryan College, group frustrations at the slow rate of progress since Haxby were vented and dispelled in a furious sprint, tailwind boosted, towards Thorp Arch Estate's cafe. Here lunches were topped up with bacon rolls and toasted day-old scones, which were excellent and worth asking for if you pay a visit. Farewells began at North Deighton and Little Ribston, leaving a select few to brave a constant stream of vehicles, nose to tail, leaving a Showground event on the concrete road, relegating us to the bumpy hard track alongside and adding another unexpected aspect to the day. Mileage: 65 with c 1500 ft ascent.

Terry Smith