

Wednesday, October 26, 2016

## Wednesday Rides

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### Wednesday Wanderers Ride

13 takers for the Wednesday Wanderers on a cool-but-pleasant autumn morning. We set off in one group and it was strongly suggested that we should leave gaps to allow cars to overtake us more easily than overtaking a single line of 13 riders. By Leadhall Lane discipline had broken down slightly. Burn Bridge and on to a rather busy A61, and then left on Walton Head Lane, where the Wednesday ride caught us up. At Kirby Overblow Paul B and Nicky were waiting for us, making 15, which really was too big for a single group. Tall John agreed to take a sub-group in front, and we arranged to meet up at the roundabout to Boston Spa. Through Wetherby town centre (where Dennis left us) and along the A1 cycle path. At the roundabout, instead of going under the A1 and continuing on the cycle path on the east side of the A1, we took the road which runs parallel to the A1 on the west side, which has a wonderful surface and little traffic. Over the motorway bridge to Bramham and then right up the hill towards Tadcaster. Stop for group photo at the other side of the footbridge in Tadcaster (thanks, Alun) and discussions about coffee stops. Thorp Arch Trading Estate was agreed on, and after that we took the old railway cycle path to Wetherby and the Harland Way to Spofforth, Follifoot, Ridding and up the Showground Hill. About 39 miles (as Dennis predicted...). CPS.





### **EGs Ride**

We had eleven riders at Low Bridge including Ian (welcome back), who had been rather unsure of himself, was he a professional golfer or should he ride a bike.

Dave Watson, was t` gaffer for the day and the destination for coffee was Spa Garden Cafe and take it from there.

At the Men`s Downhill Championship Dave Siswick back from the hot spots of the US of A again took the cup, in fact he was the only one with naked knees (had they been shaved).

Norman was on his poor Favori bike, up till now the lad had done good on the downhill challenge, but he had put flats on the bike, so no chance at all.

After caffeine and calories Dave Watson (who was on his own midden now) took the A team up the back roads in a northerly direction.

Bill, Dave P, Norman and Theo returned home via Boroughbridge, taking a comfort stop at the Municipal Facilities (you really wanted to know that did you not).

Look out for Dave W`s report entitled "Last of the summer wine on two wheels". Dave P

In the week the intended routes of both the Tour de Yorkshire & The Tour de France were made and this weekend the clocks were to go back this would be our last chance to get in a longish ride in before darkness overtook us.

So the lead group headed off on "Le Grand Depart" of Yorkshire at a brisk pace from Lowbridge towards the end of Stage 1 located at the Sun Parlour, Spa Gardens, Ripon, leaving the "peloton to follow on at a more gentle pace.

Dave(Bradley)Watson led out the reassembled peloton comprising seven apprehensive protagonists fearing the challenges which may face them.

Heading north west in an attempt to maintain the gentle wind on our left flank the next "stage" pushed us onwards & upwards to the "lumpy" sections of North Yorkshire taking in a circuitous route through to nearby Mickley, Kirkby Malzard, Laverton, & continuing upwards from Grewelthorpe towards Ilton.

Progress slowed on the long climb but relieved muscles and lungs accompanied the downward descent past Swindon Caste into Masham for refreshments.

No "Domestics" to hand out the food as we flew past so the cafe of choice was invaded by all seven of this mini peloton.

No surprise, the predominant fuel to refresh the tired legs turned out to be large plates of beans on toast, except Marvin who tucked into a very tempting plate of beef casserole so piping hot it was a while before he could make a start of it.

"Stage 3" promised to be flatter but the initial course north dimmed the enthusiasm taking in yet another, albeit, gentle climb before another descent through Snape and gathering a good pace to Sutton Howgrave, briefly diverting towards Middleton Quernhow and turning then to Wath and Ripon.

The sting in the tail on this last stage was not to venture through Ripon but to continue to Boroughbridge via

Marton Le Moor.

A good pace was maintained by most of the group with a pause in Boroughbridge to take our breath.

Time was now running out as dark clouds gathered, as they had been threatening all day. After a quick drink we all headed off to the finish, switching on what lights we had between us for our own safety.

Ian left the group at Staveley to push on home to Ferrensby, Colin drove on towards Scotton in his attempt to reach his goal before it was too dark, the remaining five, now tiring, following their relentless efforts, headed on to Knaresborough to end their day just after 5.00pm and completing upwards of 70 miles.

Once again this would be our last long ride before we would be caught out by seasonal darkening skies so we think we made the most of this last opportunity.

"A Good One" eh? Deputy Leader, Dave Watson.



### **Wednesday Ride**

The Wednesday Ride were so well organised that they had announced the route on the website and 21 cyclists joined the ride!

Kevin outlined the route which we followed trying to keep this big group in to smaller more manageable groups. At the crest of Otley his organisation/guidance was flouted and alternative suggestions made which split the group.

However the sun shone, (warm enough for shorts!) the climbs were good, we all found good cafe stops and we even reconvened at the Black Swan carpark in Burn Bridge at the end of the ride.

Next week's ride if weather and conditions merit will be towards Greygarth Monument. The ride route will be posted on the website so that we can leave Hornbeam in small groups.

Thanks Kevin for the choice of ride. 32 miles. Gia.

### **Poddlers Ride**

Monica and I followed the other groups, (at poddling pace), to Burn Bridge, up Walton ahead Lane and then to Kirby Overblow. We stopped to admire the views in the lovely autumn sunshine, before cycling into Wetherby, along the cycle path towards to Boston Spa, then Clifford and back into Wetherby for a quick coffee and scone, and a leisurely chat! As we made our way back along Harland Way we were caught by the Wanderers, and as we came into Follifoot who should we see but Glyn, returning from his lone 60 mile trek. Another fabulous ride with excellent company. 30 miles. JA

### **Long Ride**

Despite some regulars being absent, a good-sized group (8) chose Ilkley and beyond as our destination. With the wind reported as westerly, we opted for a hard slog outwards with the hope of a tailwind home. I'm not sure why, but today we seemed to head straight for any road that had a steep gradient in it. Brackenthwaite Lane led inexorably to North Rigton, Almscliffe Crag and Castley Lane via Huby. Soon we were at the foot of Old

Pool Bank, having bid farewell to Richard and Lesley, in an eye-catching new top, as they headed home for an appointment. Traffic was noticeably thicker – perhaps a combination of half term holidays but also a regular feature of roads within the orbit of Leeds and Bradford. Even on the steep climb of Old Pool Bank it seemed there were plenty of cars about. Otley Chevin was achieved without too much difficulty, where we were greeted with a shower scare and a threatening sky, painted in two separate halves. But, a quick glance towards Ilkley showed that the Cow and Calf were still visible under the clouds. Onwards through Menston and up to the moor, a familiar question recurred – why no cafe in the village? Perhaps there's one in the new housing on the former High Royds site. The showers held off and soon we were descending to Ilkley and Christ Church cafe – both busy (half term again) – for an early lunch (11.30!). Over lunch, having mulled over the inevitability of the Heathrow expansion, despite spare airport capacity elsewhere, our own decision making proved less one-tracked. Stump Cross got a mention, but we soon used the excuse that Bolton Abbey would be heaving (half term again). Langbar was in the frame until we left the cafe, whereupon the leader chose to climb up Curly Hill! A first visit for several of the group, it proved a worthy opponent. With lunch shaken down, Carter's Lane led to Denton Road and Askwith, where a late decision saw us climb up to the moor road and down to Fewston. Contact with David and Andy was lost at this point, so the remaining four headed to Penny Pot Lane using Bedlam Lane and its still-immaculate tarmac. The planned-for tailwind along Penny Pot Lane allowed Trefor, John and Peter to open up the throttle and disappear from view at rapid pace. Happily, Peter had stopped for a banana at the Oaker Bank roundabout, so goodbyes were exchanged there. We had returned to HG well before 2.00 pm after less than 40 miles, which some might see as short change for a long ride! However, it had been almost an officially "hilly" trip, 3600 ft in 37 miles. But, with reputations to uphold and a further two hours leave available, some filling-in was called for. A visit to the site of the new Civic Offices, formerly Knapping Mount, gave the opportunity to take photos to share with my wife, a habitu  of the old offices. Various gentle loops, a cuppa at the revamped Morrison cafe (gone are the fixed tables and seats, replaced by loose furniture in pastel shades) and a final climb up the Showground hill restored respectability to this week's long ride, clocking up 53 miles and 4000 ft of climbing. Terry Smith



