

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers' Ride

The promised 10°C had brought out the Poddlers' and sent lots of other people to the beyonds of Leyburn. The long ride was off for coffee and cake à Fountains Tea Room, there were no Wednesday Riders. (Had they all headed up the dales?) Alison had the Wanderers well under control and seven Poddlers were raring to go and misbehave in the Dunsfoths, via the Ouseburns. This we carried out speedily and headed to Boroughbridge where we discovered a total gem of a cafe...the abandoned pub on the corner as you enter the town from Aldborough. Vintage Bean. Space and spaces, coffee and cakes, cheese scones and cream cheese, rocky road and mint chocolate slice at very reasonable prices. A Poddlers' five-wheel award.

Hot sun over Roecliffe and onwards to a feast of footpaths...some well known, and one newly introduced by Jean...it will be glorious in summer and will certainly avoid carrying bikes over the Mountgarrett estate bridge. We then made a dash (Zoe dashing a bit faster than the rest of us as she had to be at home before her children noticed she been out) home through Nidd and Ripley, where we saw a very thin thinly disguised Father Christmas and his sleigh with Donder and Blitzen basking in the combined love of a playgroup and its mothers and a enthuse of Poddlers'. I had a lovely morning so thanks to all involved, 36/38 miles pedalled, 20395 Steps, and 89 floors. Caroline G



Wanderers Ride

It was a much milder, sunnier morning than Tuesday, so it was good to have 12 starters at Hornbeam, with more to join 'en route'. Michael took a group of 'speedsters' while the rest of us ambled along at a more sedate pace. 3 more joined us at Follifoot and 1 more at Little Ribston. [It was to be one of those fluctuating numbers rides. We did quite well at following 'the gaps and groups' policy. Then there was a shout of 'puncture!' We pulled in to wait in true Wheeleasy fashion, while Al got mending. Tim [of the Wednesday rides], kindly went and alerted those who were a little ahead. Al and Paul B had quickly changed the tube, but, just as 2 weeks ago, it wouldn't take in air. With the help of a convenient puddle, Al quickly found a hole. Paul kindly found another inner tube and soon all was sorted. By this time, Gordon and Dennis had left us to return to Harrogate. We were soon at Thorpe Arch which was very muddy thanks to some heavy plant moving around. As we arrived at the café, we met Michael's group about to leave. They warned us that there had already been a group of about 50 cyclists. Sure enough, stocks were low in the café. Michael's group then had their turn with a puncture on the edge of Wetherby.. Apparently the 'gloop' failed, so they resorted to the traditional method.[At Wetherby, 5 departed to go to their respective homes by various routes. So that left 4 of us to complete the full ride. It was well worth it! The views from the Sicklinghall ridge were lovely, with a red kite hovering .We went our separate ways near Follifoot. Once home, I decided to take up Max's suggestion and clean my bike after the Thorpe Arch mud. However, I've still to check my spare inner tube. A lovely winter ride with lots of cheerful chatting. Alison N



Wednesday Away Day Ride

As the sixteen riders assembled in the Market Square at Leyburn the good luck that has followed the Awayday rides all year was once again in evidence as it was a warm, clear day and the sun was coming up.

The long Riders set off towards Grinton (and were next seen again at the Cafe stop) whilst the main group headed towards Castle Bolton. However, we soon realised we were heading into a very strong head wind which was going to make the ride harder work than we had anticipated.

As we went along the Redmire bypass and then climbed up to the Castle we came across our second issue that would be with us most of the day- mucky roads!

Anyway after a brief photo opportunity we made our way to Aysgarth Falls and then climbed up to the main road and headed to West Burton and another photo opportunity at the Falls there- a castle and two waterfalls visited and it wasn't eleven o'clock yet!

We then doubled back on ourselves and headed towards Berry Farm Shop at Swinithwaite where a quick break was taken in preparation for tackling the Witton Steeps. After coffee we began the climb of the Steeps with everyone giving it there all and only a small amount of walking on a particularly steep hairpin.

Once at the top we headed along the Gallops, with great views over the valley, as we headed for East Witton and then on past Jervaulx Abbey to Brymors Farm and cafe for lunch and where we met up with the long riders who told tales of evil headwinds on the Moors.

After a longish break we set off and before we were out of the drive Kevin had a puncture. Not phased by this Super Bob set too and changed the tube (with a little help) in just over ten minutes(is that a record?) and we were back on our way.

We quickly turned off the main road and headed back to Leyburn which was reached just as the light was being lost and lights were needed.

Another great route around Wensleydale with great views, good climbs and great company. 34 Miles with 2350' of climbing (for the main group). Thanks to Colin for his route planning, Bob for his mechanic skills and everyone else for coming along and making it another good day outcomes. Kevin D

Richard Leake's Group

We won't forget today's away day any time soon. We met up in Leyburn with a plan to add an extra loop into Swaledale to the advertised ride. Over Bellerby ranges, it was obvious that the wind was quite strong, so we opted for the shorter of our two options and turned left to climb Greets Moss back to join the main route at Castle Bolton. Thank goodness we did. As soon as we turned left the headwind was ferocious and progress up the climb was tortuous. By the top, after 8 miles, we felt as if we had done ten rounds with Mike Tyson, and descending down to Castle Bolton was pretty hair-raising too. Thereafter, we followed the main route, fortunately getting the benefit of a tail wind up Witton Steeps. Arriving at Brymor ice cream cafe, we were surprised not to find the rest of the party, but it turned out that we had unknowingly passed them when they stopped for coffee at Swinithwaite. We strung out lunch using a variety of excuses to avoid going back out into the wind, including ice creams for John and Trefor, but eventually we had to venture out. It wasn't too bad back to Leyburn, but the 38 miles we covered still felt more like 70. A memorable ride! Richard L







Long Ride

Following the interchange of e-mails and text messages the plan for today's ride was to get to the Visitor's Centre at Fountains Abbey for 11:15 to meet up with Terry Smith. There followed another flurry of e-mails offering an off-road ride to Fountains. This resulted in four riders opting for the road version, two for the off road and two setting off from Knaresborough by road. Initially those leaving Hornbeam stuck together using the Greenway to get to Ripley. At Ripley the roadies parted company with off-riders; the roadies headed off down Holly Bank Lane towards Clint and then onwards to Burnt Yates and eventually reached Brimham Rocks. After checking on the time it was decided to go directly to Fountains via Warsill. Just as we were approaching Fountains we caught up with Richard and Lesley, the Knaresborough contingent. We arrived promptly at 11:15 but there was no sign of Terry. While we were drinking our free cups of tea the mud splattered off-riders arrived soon followed by Terry and Anne.

The return route for the roadies was to go to Boroughbridge via Ripon and Skelton on Ure. At Boroughbridge there was the parting of the ways as Peter J and Richard P continued with ride with the remainder returning to Knaresborough and Harrogate. Although Richard's intention was to get to Wetherby the uncertainty with regard to weather meant that when we reach Upper Dunsforth we decided to return to Harrogate. As a change to normal route back home we went via Scotton and Nidd, plus a small off-road detour to join the Green Way. Peter J





EGs Ride

The dreaded lurgy seemed to have struck down our leader, Dave P. Likewise our resident comic and keyboard man Terry W. so fourteen riders were set adrift on their own to search out their own destiny! Our hero, Eric W appeared at the very latest moment at 09.59.50sec but still not out of breath!! (How does he do that?)

Being the first Wednesday of the month it was decided to head in a circuitous route towards Helperby and the wonderful soups served up by the local ladies in their village hall. Notwithstanding the quality of the ladies soup however, one intrepid member admitted to providing his own tin of baked beans and spoon, to supplement his sustenance.

Passing through Boroughbridge via Arkendale and Grafton without a coffee break and straight through for Skelton and thereon to Marton- Le-Moor. The pace thereafter dictated our next move , albeit over enthusiasm drove three riders to push on to what had now become Plan C. Foreshortening the original planned route we aimed for Dishforth, Norton-Le-Clay and Cundall, turning east for Thornton Bridge.

In the distance was spotted Norman, making his own way to the lunch break and we drew alongside as we closed on our target in Helperby. The ladies of Helperby were pleased to see all fourteen of ourselves, more than doubling the contingent of dinners and thus swelling their hard worked for income. Various types of soup were on offer to suit most tastes accompanied by cheese and biscuits and followed by mince pies.

The weather on our outward journey had been inordinately warm despite recent freezing temperatures so layers of windproofs and waterproofs were divested prior to the next leg of our ride. Norman & Roy left the group to head off home via Thornton Bridge, the remainder following deputy leader Dave W. to Raskelf & Tholthorpe. Eric and Peter B. somehow dropped off the back, despite the steady pace and were never to be seen again.(I hope they both made it home safely.)

The route continued through Tollerton, turning west to accommodate our return through Aldwark and Alkendale where we dropped off Ian Glover, Dave P. having peeled off to aim for east Knaresborough via Coneythorpe. Numbers were now down to five as we continued home, arriving not quite at our target hour of 3.00pm and completing 55 miles. Dave W