

Wednesday, January 18, 2017

## **Wednesday Rides**

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### **Wednesday Wanderers Ride**

This was christened the 6 Mikes ride, 17 of us set off from Hornbeam and 6 of them were called Mike! We split into 2 groups, the 2nd of which was lead by Mike W and backmarked by Mike S. Joe backmarked for me and was excellent in reminding us all to leave gaps for cars to overtake. Our route was to Beckwithshaw then we turned left to North Rigton.

Unfortunately the 2nd group forgot and went on then had to go back - a very good way to create a gap between groups! The weather was dull but there was a glimmer of sun and it was lovely passing Almscliffe Crag and on to Leathley. Here Mike the vet met up with some of his former customers in a walking group - a small recompense for not being able to get to Masham for the Away Day due to traffic problems at Pool! As we reached the Pool to Harrogate road the 2nd group caught up and 15 of us headed up the road to the Farm Shop cafe. This was a new experience for most of us but there was room and we were soon served and tucking in. Our return was back to the road junction and through, Castley, Dunkeswick and Kirkby Overblow. Probably 27 miles and quite hilly. Thanks to Joe and Mike x 2 for helping out and welcome to new Mike. Liz



### **Awayday Ride**

The Douglas-Thomson method (cycling's' equivalent of the Duckworth -Lewis method) had again calculated the day right as 19 riders met at the Market Square ,Masham for todays ride. Whilst it was overcast it was not cold, windy or rainy and for most of the ride we had SUNSHINE!

After a pre-ride coffee we set off in smallish groups towards Thornton Watlass and some early (not too strenuous) climbing. Good progress was made and the faster riders disappeared into the distance not to be seen again till the cafe stop. From Thornton Watlass it was on to Bedale and then a short spell on the main road before heading off towards

Newton -le-Willows and an early stop at the High Park Tearooms who were very welcoming and where we enjoyed various refreshments looking out over Wensleydale.

After a quick group photo we set off again towards our next destination, Middleham and we were now enjoying clear skies and sunshine and great views of Pen Hill in the distance. After another group photo (in the sun) we arrived in Middleham and began the climb up to the Gallops and then another great climb as we made our way towards Coverham and more great views of Wensleydale.

From Coverham we went through East Witton, past Jervaulx Abbey and then turned towards Ellistring and the main climbs of the day. Whilst they were not too long they were steep and we all made our way slowly to the top (with some touching of tarmac) and then rested to take in the final views of the day before we rode down towards Masham and the end of a great days ride.

It was an early finish but it had been an excellent ride with something to see along the whole route which was, of course, amplified with the excellent weather.

31 miles, 1700' of climbing and 19 happy cyclists who couldn't believe the main problem of the day would be the sun in their eyes on a January day!

Thanks to Colin for a great route and to everyone who turned up to sample it. Great day out in good company

Kevin











### **Poddlers Ride**

No wind, no snow, no ice, no rain,  
More of the same yet again, yes again.  
Three ladies decide on a gentle Poddle,  
Passing Knaresborough, and Wetherby, was the model.  
Three Americano's at the North Deli cafe,  
The world put to rights via a Turkish bath,  
Trump with hysteria, more traffic pollution,  
Cycling on main roads, we had every solution.  
The Harland Way return seemed a good route choice.  
How wrong could we be....reasonable sense did voice.  
Home for lunch, and yes the bike stand was out.  
Thank you for reason which was sprayed all about.  
A cup of tea in return for the mud bath removal,  
Ladies thanks for your company and for Max my approval.  
23 miles.12,237paces ,42 floors and appologies to Poet Susan Downes. CG

## Long Ride

We are still without our leader Terry Smith. The intention was to put into operation Plan A, which was to meet Terry at Bolton Abbey tearooms going via Langbar. This was rapidly amended to Plan B, cycle to Ilkley and meet Terry there. Eight riders left Hornbeam for a steady ride to Ilkley via Little Almscliffe Crag, Timble and Askwith. By the time we reached Timble we had already lost one rider John S. Whilst the weather was murky leaving Harrogate we had a momentary glimpse of the sun as we arrived in Ilkley. We headed for Christchurch church for refreshments and awaited Terry's arrival. Eventually Terry turned up despite the efforts of public transport. On leaving Ilkley John H and Trefor decided to return home, the rest meandered their way around the back roads of Ilkley eventually ending up heading towards Otley. This time Richard and Lesley decided to take the low road to Pool and Harrogate. The remaining three riders returned to Harrogate via Farnley, Stainburn and Beckwithshaw. Peter J





### **Long Ride (Alternative View)**

Even if injury keeps one off the bike, I see great merit in incorporating a cafe stop into one's recovery routines. Today saw me keeping my hand in, meeting the long ride at Christ Church cafe in Ilkley and cheerfully shaking off the familiar ribald comments about being late. Actually, I was early and went for a stroll around the town while the ride caught up with me! They earned their lunchtime calories rather more than I did, however, as the planned meeting at Bolton Bridge wasn't to happen today. It was heart-warming to hear tales of familiar climbs – Low Snowden today – and the tentative debate about returning via Cow and Calf. From my view of the roll-out along The Grove, it looked as though Cow and Calf would be for another day. The Dales Way to Addingham sufficed for recovery exercise today, with the bus pass taking the strain of any heavy lifting. A very cursory cafe survey of the rather sleepy village revealed only the shop as most likely venue, with toasted teacake being an obvious come-on. But clearly Addingham is eagerly awaiting some excitement – this A-board giving over 3 months' notice of the TdeYorks was spotted in front of The Crown. Book early!

Terry Smith



### **EG's Ride**

We had sixteen riders at Low Bridge, however all of us were a little to old, and not bonny enough to be considered "sweet sixteen".

Did a full set of Dave`s (ie 5 off) influence this?.

There are few cafes large enough take sixteen cyclists without causing "cafe shock".

No prizes for guessing Morrison`s in Wetherby.

So away we went via Thistle Hill, Follifoot, Spofforth, Kirk Deighton, to take tea in one of our favourite cafes.

Bob returned home from here so 15 riders headed for York via the cycle path alongside the A1, then the A659 to Boston Spa, this was to avoid the leafy, slippery cycle path out of Wetherby.

On to Thorpe Arch Village, Wighill, Healaugh, just after here, a foursome headed for home.

The remaining eclectic eleven headed for the Cycle Heaven cafe via Knavesmire to avoid another leafy ( perhaps slippery) cyclepath.

Here Peter Bradley left us to seek out the fleshpots of York, for the remaining ten it was over the Mill Nelliium bridge to Cycle Heaven Cafe, which is to kids that never grow up, like having tea in a toy shop.

The route back was via Acomb, but before we got there we found we had misplaced Eric, contact was made by that wonderful piece of kit, the mobile phone, however it was still no show.

The general theory was that he gone to find which York Fleshpot Peter had chosen, and have a "rite good nite" with him.

The nine remaining riders, Colin, Dave Peatfield, Dave Preston, Dave Watson, Dave Wilson, Dave Siswick, Geoff, Ian and Phil had a quick stop at Marston Moor Monument, for a drink and lights on, (it was a dull day) and then home at a steady pace.

It had been a good ride with no wind, and no rain, very good for a winter ride.

The maximum mileage could have been in the high 50`s, unless Eric and Peter finished up in Newcastle ( poor Geordies). Dave P.



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