

Wednesday, September 27, 2017

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers' Ride

Grandfather David had a grin from ear to ear, as he introduced new rider Sandra.....but she wasn't the only reason for his joy...it was the recent arrival of a grandson Benjamin...small and sweet and definitely a baby according to photographic evidence. Anyway, Sandra looked super fit and seemed up for any ride, so Monica and I decided on a trip to Boston Spa and see how we felt and thus we three.... holidays and walking occupying the other regulars.... set off on the only ride that seems to have more downhill than uphill. We met Max en route to Low Bridge, got muddled up with the Wanderers and sped on towards Wetherby via St. James' Park and Kirk Deighton, as the E. G's cheerily sauntered (in a two-wheeled manner) passed us, going somewhere in the far east. We avoided caffeine temptations of Wetherby and continued along the cycle path towards Boston Spa where we met Bob. He was yet another friend of Jean's. ...who had just pedalled 40miles all before elevenses.

After a quick break in Boston Spa we decided to take to the A1 bike path back to Wetherby, where we sampled the delights of the Shambles, sorted out world problems, saw Monica's holiday photos, and heard about Sandra's latest jaunt knocking back cocktails in Lanzarote with a 21 year old grandson. The return journey was quick and painless and both Monica and I decided that we were not really following the Michael Moseley 20 frantic seconds three times x three times a week by cycling, as we seemed to have lost the ability to exhaust ourselves going uphill.... strange. We arrived back in Harrogate pointed Sandra in the right direction and returned to our homes. A lovely morning out. 29.5miles. 15,770 paces and 63 floors. CG



Wednesday Wanderers' Ride

A mild dry morning, with a promise from the BBC of some sun, saw 14 Wanderers leave Hornbeam. Another 2 were collected in Knaresborough. At Max's suggestion, we turned off Chain Lane on a clever diversion via Breary Flat and Hazelheads lane to avoid the worst of the road works on Boroughbridge Rd. Left to Farnham and then to Staveley and through Minskip to Boroughbridge. Mike the vet left us here to go to America, presumably an aircraft was also part of the plan. Dennis and Gordon also opted for the shorter ride and returned to Harrogate via Arkendale, not quite so exciting. We stopped outside Lister's Farm Shop and Café to consider options. Two decided to stay for coffee and were left with route instructions and map. Max left for a shorter route of his own devising. Resisting the smell of coffee and bacon from Lister's, 10 of us continued to Kirby Hill. Here we turned right in the direction of Dishforth, then left to cross the A1 to Marton-le-Moor where we stopped whilst I had a brief lapse of navigational memory at a junction. Fortunately, as I had given away my route map, the brain cells re-booted and we correctly turned right in Marton. We turned left onto the Dishforth Road then left again through Copt Hewick. Right along the Ripon/ B'Bridge Road and then a photo call on the bridge over the canal. We continued on our way through Littlethorpe, right at Bishop Monkton and through Markington to tackle the only hill of the day before descending to Ripley. Five continued on their way and the remaining 5 of us joined Max, who had waited for us in the Church coffee and cakes emporium. Usually the ladies of Ripley Church finish the Wednesday coffee and cakes at the end of September but it sounded as if they would probably continue through October (no guarantee so don't quote me). At 40 miles it was 3 more than billed and at the upper end of Wanderer's rides. Mostly flat though and some country lanes we rarely ride. Sun tried but never quite made it out. A pleasant morning in friendly company. Welcome to Paul on his first ride with us. Thanks to Liz P for back marking and helping to maintain small groups and safe gaps. We might be able to have 2 small groups, one made up of Daves and one of Mikes in future! Dave Griffin





Wednesday Ride

Under grey skies we gathered with a vague plan that was based around the group visiting the Community cafe in Darley to 'road test' it.

Ten riders were up for a hilly route that took in Little Almscliffe, the early part of Duck Street, Thornthwaite and then the ride down towards Darley before the short climb into the village and into the Community cafe (courtesy of Johns directions). We had been beaten to it by Richard and Stuart who had set off with the Long ride and who gave good reports of the coffee.

We had a warm welcome and though the menu was limited and the service a little slow it was indeed good coffee and Gia's Iced bun was certainly appealing!

It is good to see such a community project working and it was great to be able to support it and it is in an ideal location stop for smaller groups riding in the Nidderdale area.

The biggest debate over lunch was where we went post coffee with a divide in opinion dependent upon time constraints. In the end, it was decided to split the group with four of the group (led by John and Angela) heading back home via Birstwith and the remainder of the group going over the toll bridge and up Stripe Lane and on to Brimham Rocks. Despite the limited views it is still a great destination and with no rain forecast we were enjoying the longer route.

From Brimham we hit the 'rollercoaster' downhill ride to the Drovers and into Ripley. Here the group further divided with Gia, Colin and Charlie heading straight home down the Greenway whilst Kevin, James and Sue C enjoyed a second stop at the village store with sandwich, coffee and cake (but no ice cream!) before also heading for the Greenway and home.

No photo today – we just forgot!- but 37 miles with 2200' of climbing. The cloud obscured the views we knew were there but the sun kept trying to get out and there was no wind to make us work too hard so all in all an enjoyable ride with the usual good company. Kevin

Wednesday Long Ride

Fourteen riders opted for the long ride today – a record in my memory – no doubt tempted by the prospect of wind assistance up Duck Street. With such numbers, a variety of sub-groups formed and unformed along the way to the toilet stop at Fewston. Richard and Stewart peeled off at Broad Dubb in search of a suitable cafe. Here the climbs began, with a taster up to Timble, followed in succession by the slog up to West End and round the top end of Thruscross Reservoir. Eventually we reached Duck Street with its lorries but did get the looked-for benefit from the stiffish tail wind. By the time we'd reached the T junction in Greenhow, peel-offs had reduced our numbers a little with John S heading back towards Menwith and John H, Red Dave and Martin heading down towards Pateley. Thus, it was eight who rolled into Stump Cross cafe for a welcome break after what felt like a lot of climbing. I'd announced at Hornbeam that we were heading for Grassington or Hebden but the break at Stump Cross left us looking for a suitable length of ride to the lunch stop. Burnsall and Bolton Bridge were discarded and we settled on Christ Church cafe at Ilkley. Paul turned back to HG from Stump Cross – a good effort, sir, after a holiday and catching a cold. It was distinctly nippy into the wind on the way down to the Parceval Hall turn but once off the tops and down towards Cavendish Pavilion we moved into warmer and briefly sunnier climes. With sun on trees turning a golden hue, we saw one of the delights of autumn; let's hope there are a few more this year in compensation for a drab dank summer. Once over the A59, four of the party headed for the Langbar summit via the "north face", descending immediately to join the rest in the cafe and an insight into ultra-long Audax riding. Cote de Stainburn was dismissed as the direction home in favour of the valley route from Otley to Pool and Castley. Taking turns on the front, the string soon reached Pool bridge, where we noted the rebuilding of the petrol station – probably with a large shop from one of the major grocery chains. Soon we were into Kirkby Overblow after the last climb, past the school run cars and waiting at the by-pass for a gap. Here was the parting of the ways towards home after 60-plus miles and 4900 ft. of climbing (according to Strava); small beer for our Alpinists, maybe, but plenty for me. Terry Smith





EGs' Ride

Our leader, Dave Preston, reported he had more pressing matters today, locating a key to access his meter cupboard so he could read & pass on his fuel readings! Consequently, deputy leader, Dave W. was persuaded to pick up the baton and lead off the several impatient riders gathering at Low Bridge.

Roy and Bill decided to follow Dave P. whilst the remaining eight headed south for the recently reopened Linton Bridge on our way via Collingham. Some of the flock, through habit assumed we would be calling in at our usual haunt, Morrisons, shooting off the front and leaving the slower paced peloton in their wake, but in order to include for a more challenging ride it had been decided to miss out on the early stop over.

Approaching Wetherby, Dave S. was despatched to pick up the wayward pair, Eric & Colin, so that they could rejoin us at Linton bridge. Due to a misunderstanding, despite a pause waiting for them, it was sometime later before we all got back together again.

So six EGs, including Rob, who'd. we'd not seen for some while, due to a cycle accident on the "Greenway", headed for our first climb of many outside Collingham. Passing through East Rigton and recrossing the A58 we continued climbing towards Bardsey meandering our way to the junction dictated by the Dexter Pub, in Alwoodley.

Here Rob decided to abandon us and went on his way presumably to seek early sustenance. The remaining five aimed our wheels for Eccup, pausing at the A61 crossing to share a water bottle with Dave S. who'd forgotten to bring along his own and was thus grateful that Geoff always carries two.

Contrary to expectations we sallied right at the end of Eccup and partially down Weardley bank but turning the first left around the righthand bend to dive down to the valley bottom, taking care of the loose nature of the road surface we swept down to meet Marvin who had elected to ride the longer and smoother way around.

Approaching the lower highway, the A659 our phones were heard to "chime!" or was it "bark" &, stopping briefly, we were pleased to make contact with Eric who enquired our location and our intended plans for lunch in Otley. Having identified CafeCafe as our choice our forthcoming plans for climbing up Arthington bank were shelved and as Marvin, Nick & Geoff had shot off into the distance, Dave S. & Dave W. followed at a distinct pace to catch them up with the gratefully accepted news that the next climb was not now to be attempted and we were to power on direct to Otley to join Erin & Colin.

Parking our bikes, after a time trial like pace, in the now tidy and floral courtyard, climbing the stairs we found the two wayward members already on their first coffee complaining they had completed several circuits of Otley awaiting our arrival.

Unfortunately the service was a little slow and many subjects were covered killing time whilst awaiting our fare.

Anyone know anything about "Bitcoin"? Various theories and explanations were put forward concluding that if, by any chance, the Labour Party gets in at the next election perhaps the "Bitcoin" may be a safer currency as we see the value of the £ plummet!

How are we going to solve the problem of North Korea? Perhaps we should encourage the C.I.A. to send in undercover operatives to deal with the unconventional leader.

Ginger Lacy also became the subject of conversation, one of our greatest fighter pilots who brought up in Wetherby now has a plaque adjacent to the new Aldi supermarket which being German does seem somewhat ironic.

Baked beans on toast completed Dave S. guided our exit from Otley via the new housing estate and across the "pipe" bridge to head up to Farnley. Dropping down the steep descent to Lindley Green we struggled yet again in an upwards direction aiming for Beckwithshaw and home.

Nick left us for Brackenthwaite lane and we dropped off both Eric & Marvin near their respective homes.

Sweeping back down to Knaresborough and Low Bridge we were rejoined by Dave S. who

had taken a less circuitous route agreeing it had been a great ride, hilly but challenging. We had completed 46 hardship miles in dry but overcast conditions perfect for riding conditions.
Dave W.