

Wednesday, October 18, 2017

Wednesday Rides

Wednesday Wanderers ride

I haven't led many rides recently for very good logistical reasons, so when the opportunity arose I stepped manfully in. However on the day Jen and I met the perfect storm of problems getting to Hornbeam in time for the start. Someone had decided to smash their's and someone else's cars into Harewood Bridge, leaving us with an about turn back to Pool and the ensuing queues that had built up, both in Pool and at the Harrogate by-pass roundabout. Fortunately, with liberal use of the mobile phone Jenny managed to contact enough people so that everyone knew what had happened to us. My thanks go to whoever stepped in and did the shouting bit at Hornbeam with the information on the different rides, because I was also co-opted for that duty. Also thanks to Dennis who took some of the Wanderers off on a hastily composed route.

I thought at this point I had managed to get out of the responsibility of leading, but others had a different idea. A posse of 10 riders were waiting for me to arrive, not in the Hornbeam car park, but at the end of Beech Road where I usually park (absolutely no escape). Thanks! to the gallant 10 who waited. Lovely day for cycling and like Brian Hanrahan (BBC correspondent) 'I counted them all out, and I counted them all back'. Not even the perils of Duck Street and its maniac lorry drivers, the rolling terrain around Thruscross reservoir, or the rather abrupt service at the 'Cobby Syke' Farm Shop Cafe seemed to put them off. Two of the group went back early and the rest carried on manfully (sorry Liz, also womanfully) around the res.

Looking at this picture halfway around Thruscross, I was beginning to wonder if the seven were going to 'bale' out on me. There were mutterings of them being used as cannon 'fodder' and someone thought it was the last 'straw'. Ah well at least the emogi's looked as though they were enjoying themselves (now is that the back row or the front?).

From an indifferent start a reasonable ride was had by all (I think). Glyn







Long Ride

The Long Ride was leaderless this morning as Terry Smith was off to join the Awayday Ride. The general consensus of the thirteen riders was to head for Easingwold and take it from there. Leaving Hornbeam Park in dribs and drabs we reassembled at Low Bridge. Following some jolly banter with EG's it was off to Boroughbridge. At Boroughbridge it was decided to form two groups and PCJ was elected to lead the faster group. After some discussion we settled on a circuitous route to Easingwold taking in Brafferton, a zig-zag across the A19, and after some indecision around Husthwaite we headed for Oulston. Unfortunately, disaster struck as Paul's rear axle attachments parted company. We now headed directly to

Easingwold with Paul nursing his bike all the way. Arriving at Easingwold we found that the EGs were already ensconced at TeeHee! so it was the Sugar Mouse for us. After having had refreshments we left Paul waiting for his "taxi". The return journey was less eventful with a return route of Alne, Thorpe Underwood, Whixley, Cowthorpe and Knaresborough. PCJ





EG's Ride

On the way down to Low Bridge I got caught in the slipstream of Wheeleasy's "A" team as they headed for Easingwold, now there's a coincidence they must have read the day like the EG's.

After last weeks small numbers we had a good number of likely lads at Low Bridge ie sixteen in total.

A big welcome to the following.

Bob Shears back with us for a short ride, he has sometimes to nip back to the service station for a tune up, so today it was shortish ride and then perhaps a fine tune up before upping the mileage.

Alan Banister (with one n) nice to see you riding with us.

Also from the deep south (still in Yorkshire though) Terry Wadkin on his Italian push bike.

All Wheeleasy knows the way to Easingwold so there will be no route description except to say the men's downhill trophy was wrested from Dave (wonderwheels) Siswick, by Geoff by half a wheel, nice one.

Bob left us at Boroughbridge for his coffee, the rest of us (in groups of course) headed for Easingwold, and Dave P's day was made.

Coffee/tea and beans were taken in cafe in the square by all of us, we were also joined for a time by Wheeleasy's "A" team from Hornbeam Carpark.

The group then split again to return by their different ways.

A small group consisting of Bill, Dave P, Dave Watson, Norman and Roy headed for home.

At Branton Green a banana break was taken together with a discussion on keys and chords, a cord on your key stops it getting lost, however the lost chord was not found, which is understandable because being EG's we would not be able to remember where we had put it in the first place.

Amongst our group there may have been some riders who thought Easingwold was a bridge to far, however getting to a destination is not the be all and end all, its how you get back,

and this was done in fine style, congratulations to everybody, and thanks for a great and sociable ride, Oh! and the laughs. Dave P.



Poddler's Ride

Unfortunately there was a car crash on Harewood Bridge which caused Glyn and me to be late getting to Hornbeam. After a quick dash to Killinghall, I met up with Monica and Jane, and we were soon off to Fountains Abbey, where scones and coffee were consumed. The view from the deer park was stunning on this beautiful autumn day. We cycled through Ripon, Bishop Monkton, and were soon back to the Drovers, and whizzing back to Ripley. Monica and I then left Jane at Ripley, and chatted our way down the Greenway back to Harrogate. Well done Jane for doing a hilly ride without complaint! 34 miles. Jen Appleyard



Trailer Ride

11 riders (ones alarm failed to go off!) gathered in the dark at 6.30(ish) to load the bikes for this months Awayday ride which was based around using the bike trailer. Once loaded we set off and watched the sun get up as we made our way to Kirkby Lonsdale to start our ride.

Once there we were joined by Ian who had taken a day off work and was combining the ride with a trip on the Settle to Carlisle line and had made his own way there.

The weather forecast had been predicted to be OK but no expected the brilliantly sunny, blue and clear skies we experienced all day which made a fantastic back drop for the ride.

As with all Colin' routes we were quickly climbing out of the town as we made our way towards Barbondale when Matthew had a puncture after we had gone along a path where the hedges had been cut. The only compensation was a great view over towards Kirby Lonsdale!

Back on the road we had a magnificent ride up Barbondale and then down into Dentdale for our first stop at Sedbergh. After the early start the coffee and cake were enjoyed by all before we got on our way again.

A steady climb out of Sedbergh and onto the country road that would take us over to Orton. This section of the ride was magic-there is no other word for it! The blue sky, sun on our backs, the Howgills at their best and good company as we made our way into Cumbria. We watched the cars ploughing along the M6 in the distance and quickly decided we knew what we preferred.

After crossing the M6 by an underpass we made our way to the Orson Scar cafe for a late lunch. We have been before on our Awaydays and the service, again, was efficient, friendly and the food tasty- definitely one of our favourite cafes to visit on awayday rides. Suitably refreshed we were ready to tackle the climb over to Appleby. Ian left us to go along the main road to enable him to be certain to get his train and the rest of us set off to climb up towards Orton Scar and the highest point of the ride.

The sun had gone in by now but the views were still not bad as we made our way across the moor and then down into Appleby to meet the trailer and then the ride home. 42 miles, 2850 feet of climbing in wonderful weather that showed off the area at its best.

Another great ride which everyone enjoyed in great company. Ian, Jeremy and Matthew were awarded their 'Colin' badges as this was their first Awayday ride. And after quickly loading up we set off back home tired but well pleased with the days cycling.

Thanks to Colin for another great route, for the good company of everyone on the ride, to Norrie of Sherwoods coaches who did a great job with getting us there and back and most of all for the Awayday spell which provided us, once again, with superb weather. Kevin





