

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

## **Wednesday Rides**

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### **Poddlers' Ride**

Seven ladies decided to set off to Tadcaster, but they did not seem to have their pjs with them...we could take months to find it never mind get back. We were doomed from the start...first Sandra through no one's fault, fell off at a roundabout...thankfully no damage was done to bikes or persons, and she was safely transported home by her daughter in law. Continuing to Low Bridge we realised that the E.G.s had already left...this is unheard of and we missed their cheery greetings. At the end of Abbey Road we had to wait for Jane to rescue a kitten which we could tell was going to throw itself onto the main road. Thus, we got going at about 10.30.

We arrived at Wetherby without incident, but sadly Sue left us for shoulder pummelling, Jean left us due to jet lag and an impending hair cutting and Monica felt weedy still. So only four down, three of us left to find Tadcaster. Now unexpectedly this was rather easy and how lovely it was, with its beautifully mended Bridge rejoining two bits of Tadcaster. Now came the hard part, getting out of this brewing town and finding the route home. Luckily Jen had her map collection and had looked at it, and remembered and recognised bits of our chosen route. We quickly reached Bramham with its very surprising steep out of place precipice into the town.

En route we had met vast groups of cyclists from York and another all lady group from Wetherby...very jolly. En route into Wetherby we came across vast swathes of glass.... not very jolly.

We stopped for possibly what could be described as a late lunch in a cafe in The Shambles, when an escapee from the Wanderers joined us and had an unheard of second coffee. As night was certainly on the horizon, we needed to get cracking and get home via the Hartland Way....where my bike was attacked by a flying large twig, ruining my mud guard and fixings. However speedy progress was made back into Harrogate, where we were greeted by eleven red kites expecting a road kill tea. A very satisfying and enjoyable day's cycling for those of us left at the end. 39 miles; 21,698 steps; 105 floors. CG





**Wednesday Wanderers' Ride - Group 1**

There were a lot of Wanderers today so I volunteered to take a group of 8 and we set off up to Little Almscliffe, down the other side then up Pennypot Lane and with Mike P's navigation help over the A59 to Kettlesing Bottom. Then we had to get the map out! After a group discussion it was decided to go past Menwith Hill, down to Darley via Sheepcote Lane and to have coffee at Darley Post Office. This was a first for many and most of us sat outside enjoying the views. It was a pity some of the hot drinks took so long to arrive! Our return was via Birstwith, Clint and Ripley. About 28 miles with 1969 feet climbing. Welcome to Tony on his 1st ride with WE and thanks to Alison for keeping us all in order at the back. Liz P.



### **Wednesday Wanderers' Ride - Group 2**

No wind, no rain and not very cold today. About 20 takers for the Wanderers, including new man Tony from Cambridge (North Yorkshire's hills should make an interesting change for him) and Monica Webber, normally a medium-plus rider. Too many for one group, so Liz P kindly agreed to lead a breakaway group. Leadhall Lane, Rossett, Squinting Cat and Otley Road to Beckwithshaw, and then up Norwood Lane (with no headwind: the wind turbines on Pennypot were completely motionless). Some anti-social citizen(s) had thrown bits of corrugated asbestos at regular intervals on to the grass verge all along Norwood Lane for at least 2 miles. Hanging is too good for them. Right past the Sun Inn and then right into Pennypot Lane and left down to Kettlesing Head and across the A59, which was not too busy. We descended into Kettlesing Bottom and meandered through quiet places with interesting names such as Staupes, Longscales and Hew Green, places we do not often visit with Wheel Easy. Dennis, Gordon and Steve Perry left us at Meg Gate, and those wanting to visit Sophie's took a detour from the published ride and went down from Clapham Green to Hampsthwaite. Coffee and a new, reduced-treacle flapjack passed muster, and about 7 of us returned through Hollybank Woods, Ripley and the Greenway. In Ripley, I tried to

discourage a duck from pushing a bag of cheesy bits further into the road, but failed miserably, and I hope he didn't get squashed. About 23 miles. Joe



### **Wednesday Ride**

I think it was 11 of us who left Hornbeam on our way to Ripon via the Green Way into Ripley up Scarah Bank and then taking a left just before Sawley heading to Brimham Rocks, lots of chat about this road being a Wheel Easy favourite, I prefer riding this road the other way much quicker!!, we took a right at the T junction then a right onto Sawley Moor Lane, left at the end and into Sawley and a quick right turn on to Low Gate Lane a new road for me this one but what a beauty, even if a 20% incline mid-way takes a bit of getting up. We stopped at Fountains for a group photo where Tim left us to make his way back home, the decision was made to head into Ripon via the deer park where Oliver's would be our resting point. We decided that should there be a league for best cafe Oliver's would be a top 3 contender, it would get a best in class for speed of service alone. Gia had Eggs Royale followed by a particularly nice looking Portuguese Tart, James paid up and made a speedy exit for home alone only to be quickly followed by Stuart who announced that he was off to try and catch James, Martin chose to get more miles in heading for York, this left 7 of us to head home via Bishop Monkton. We took a quick fly-by Colin's new pad at Knaresborough then home, 39.2 miles good company and gorgeous weather for November. For those that may be interested my heart rate monitor claims I had an average rate of 107 for the ride maxing out at 181 up the golf club climb into Harrogate. Gia noticed me rubbing my chest on one of our reconvene points today asking if I had chest pain. I explained I was readjusting my monitor strap lol , she said she was fully up to speed with first aid, good to know we have guardian angels out there with us. PCV



### **Wednesday Long Ride**

The Ride Committee, eight in number, decided that today's ride would take us to Wharfedale, the exact destination was left open. With Richard P at the head of the peloton

we took a meandering route out of Harrogate, but eventually returned to the familiar route of Squinting Cat, Beckwithshaw, Fewston and Timble. With little or no wind, the reservoirs mirrored the surrounding trees and countryside. Martin D on his new bike was on fine form attacking all the hills. At the top of Askwith Bank we had to decide where to go next. Dave R was time limited so he set off on his own route, the rest opted for refreshments at Christchurch in Ilkley. Suitably refreshed we now headed along the back road to Bolton Abbey, minus Richard P. On the way to Bolton Abbey we were treated to the spectacle of Trefor G being overtaken by a women rider while going up a hill. It was now down to Cavendish Pavilion and onward to Appletreewick and Stump Cross Caverns. Horror of horrors, Stump Cross Caverns were closed, a noticed informed us that they are only open Thursday to Sunday in the winter. After some debate about where to eat, we concluded that today would be a one stop ride, so it was home to Harrogate. A good day for riding no wind or rain with reasonable temperatures. During the ride numerous topics were discussed, all very amusing, but none of them were suitable to put into print. PCJ





**EGs' Ride**

Today's downhill freewheel event was a little bit different to normal; several of us went together, initiating much slipstreaming and crouching positions that would have surprised

many TdeF riders. The lead changed several times over the course, which can't be much more than a couple of minutes. I'm unsure who won, but it wasn't me, as I was repassed in the last metre of the run. We will see if this experience has altered any tactics next time the event is run.

A quick blast up to Boroughbridge followed, won by Geoff on the motorway bridge. We met up with the rest of our group and there was the usual interlude of rubbish talked, before we split into two.

This group consisting of seven stalwarts rode on to Easingwold for beans on toast at Tee Hee's. The meal and the service were very satisfactory and I think this must be the "in" place in Easingwold at the minute. I noticed a new and flashy looking cafe had opened up the main street as we headed back out of town. So from being a cafe desert town, there are now at least six places to get a snack.

We made fairly gentle progress on the way home, stopping outside Alne to clear mudguards of mud (well what else would you expect in a mudguard?)

The group broke up at Stony Lane, all agreeing that we had had another pleasant day out. Thanks to (new) Peter, Dave P2, Chris (nice to see you out again, you haven't slowed down much), Nick, Geoff and Dan, who surprised me by only having one lunch!! Our thoughts were with our absent friend, Dave W, who was attending Pamela after her unfortunate tumble. Hope she can pick up Dave. Dave S.

PS. You can see that the waitress who took our photo was very discerning, having managed to exclude two of our team of seven. She did however, manage to get the main bloke on!!

#### **Addendum to EGs Ride**

Another good weather Wednesday, we seem to be lucky here, other days of the week seem not so good. We had twelve riders at Low Bridge. Dave Watson was unavailable (best wishes to Dave and Pamela). Chris who we had not seen for a while was with us (welcome back Chris). Peter S was with us again (so we were not that bad the first time he joined us, hope you are now a regular Peter).

Eric and Peter B are spending a few days "up` t dales" so ignore all reports of rustling, country crime and pubs running out of beer and barmaids.

As riders get older the social side of cycling becomes more important so all twelve of us took morning coffee in Morrisons at Boroughbridge. After a good chin wag, caffeine and calories the group split into two, the "A" team heading for Easingwold and the "B" headed for Roecliffe, Bishop Monkton, Markington and a comfort stop at Ripley.

The weather had been very good however the roads were very clarty, the mud seeming to have an adhesive quality and mudguards had to be cleared.

Then home via the greenway.

No photos, there is only so much the reader can stand, a nice little ride (somewhere in the mid 30`s, I wish I was). Dave P

