

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

## **Wednesday Rides**

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### **Funeral of Steve Smith at Stonefall Cemetery Wednesday 23rd May 2018**

Andrew, Liz F, Liz P, Alison, Corinne, Mike Clark, Brian and Peter represented Wheel Easy cycling club at Steve's funeral.

The funeral service was held in Stonefall chapel, attended by his wife Marion, his sons Thomas and Andrew, family and friends. His brother made a moving tribute to Steve. Steve was a very educated and intelligent man, attended Cambridge, an engineer working all over the world and also a very talented footballer and sportsman. When Steve retired he did volunteer work for people with special needs, also a volunteer driver for taking people to hospitals and hospices and training to be an Advisor at the CAB in Harrogate. Steve was a person who did things quietly and unassumingly. The service was a moving dedication to Steve's life, a wonderful husband and father and a great friend to many. The last song played at the service was 'Take it Easy' by the Eagles a fond farewell from Steve.

After the service the Wheel Easy group was invited back to the Cedar Court Hotel, where drinks and a buffet was served. Marion had a screen projector running photos from Steve's life with family and friends and some very touching photos included from Wheel Easy Cycling. Steve will be missed by us all and we are so glad to have known him and enjoyed our cycling together. Liz. F.

### **EG'S Ride**

A cold start to the day but we had ten riders at Low Bridge.

First question of the day where to ?, anywhere but Easingwold cried the riders and the bikes.

A quick word with Caroline about going behind hedges unescorted, then away we went to Tadcaster.

A quick text to Eric to meet us for coffee.

The "A" team with the creeping sprint were soon away, with Bill W in their midst ( well done WE Whale), the slower team? consisting of Bob Shears on his push bike and Dave P were paced by Chris.

Bob who was on fine form and on the pace left us to carry on to Wetherby.

Then it was on to Rudgate again paced by Chris to pick up Bill (who had cycled so well but had to drop off the peloton).

Tadcaster cafe closed, Oh dear! well a phrase somewhat similar was used !, Bill decided to head for Wetherby and Morrison`s cafe.

Bet they have gone to Bolton Percy cafe, mobile phones etc etc, on the way met Eric in his car, great minds ?? think alike.

A nice refined coffee stop with elegant cups and saucers (see photo).

The "A" team ( including Chris, thanks for your help Chris) then headed for York via Acaster Malbis, a smaller team consisting of Colin, Dave P, John R and Nick headed for Copmanthorpe and the cafe in Askham Richard

(see photo), once again nice coffee and calories, then back home via Cowthorpe, the fellowship of the wheel was dissolved on the B6164 with some heading for Spofforth and the others to Knaresborough.

An excellent ride at an achievable pace, and for one rider the longest ride of the year.

Dave P



### **Wanderers Ride**

Fifteen people set out on a rather cloudy chilly morning, missing some of the usual stalwarts who were either on the Away Day or sadly attending Steve Smith's funeral.

It was Angela's first foray into Leading (note the 'L'). Route instructions were distributed on A4 sheets – the art of brevity is yet to come! We split into three groups with Alan kindly back marking.

Hills were a feature of the first part of the ride. The advantage is that there is usually a down after the up! Brackenthwaite Lane was particularly enjoyable as was the road from

North Rigton up to Almscliffe Crag (photo). We still had everyone with us and were advised that most of the hills had been mastered.

A lovely gentle ride through Huby, Weeton and Dunkeswick brought us to the option of a lesser climb up to Kirkby Overblow, rather than the rather challenging Chapel Hill. Some members left us here to return to Harrogate whilst the rest continued through Sicklinghall on to refreshment in Wetherby. The cafetiere has yet to make here!

A lovely ride along the Harland Way to Spofforth took in the beautiful blossoms at this time of year, and then on to Follifoot. By this time the sun was truly out and some members felt quite overdressed. We finished off through the showground with one of the cheekiest hills saved for last!

Angela Rickards



### **Awayday Ride**

Today's ride started with a short silence in memory of Steve Smith, an awayday regular, who passed away earlier in the month and whose funeral it was today. He will be missed. The weather was cold and there was mist on the tops as the 9 takers set off towards Kettlewell and our first objective- Park Rash.

Richard Leake and John Hackett lead the charge and everyone did really well on the climb with most only taking one short walk- a really good effort with the wind in our faces.

It was cool on the tops and as we rode down Coverdale the views were still slightly misty but we could see better weather was on the way.

We rode along the valley and down Witton Steeps and on to Berrys Farm at Swinithwaite for lunch. Although it was busy we were served quickly- although a few were enjoying the rest from our earlier exertions!

After a good break we set off for the second half of the ride and made our way from Aysgarth to Carperby and Askrigg. By now the sun was coming out and the views had cleared so we enjoyed the ride down the valley and into Hawes where we decided to have tea and cake before our big climb.

We found a great cycle cafe in the old station and 'carbo loaded' with cake, ice cream and a Giant Tea Cake!

From here we made our way to Gayle Lane and the climb of Fleet Moss. Our resident mountain goats John and Richard led the way but 4 others made it all the way (well done Bob, Sue C, Helen, James -his electric bike really does work!)-and the others made brave attempts at climbing all the way.

After stopping for photos and admiring the views we speeded down the hill and into Langstrothdale and a beautiful run in glorious sunshine back into Buckden.

Everyone was tired after a 'big ride' day but happy to have done the ride and, for many of us, some new roads and sights.

It was 45 miles and 3600' of climbing in the most wonderful part of the county- it will be hard to better this ride on future Awaydays!  
Thanks to Colin for a super route, Richard for helping with the leading and for everyone who turned up. It was ride that will remain in the memory for a while. Kevin









**Poddlers Ride**

