

Wednesday, July 25, 2018

Wednesday Rides

EG's Ride

The long hot summer continues, this may of course cause problems in certain areas, such as cycle mudguard manufacturers making a loss this year.

We had twelve riders at Low Bridge plus a new Dave, a Dave G brought by Nick, a handy guy to have on a ride if one developed wheel wobbles (no I am not talking about EG riding styles).

Talking of Daves, Dave Watson rang to say he had booked some help for 10-00am and would join us, unfortunately the help arrived to late for him to join us but he was in our thoughts as we toasted him in coffee and tea sat in the sun at Spa Gardens cafe in Ripon. After a pleasant, caffeine, calories and conversation the "fellowship of the 700c ring" was dissolved, 50% heading southish and home and 50% heading north to Wath turning right just before Kirklington under the A1 on the B6267 to Ainderby Quernhow where two of our riders came across a real nasty piece of driving.

A delivery van was stationary on a small side road, he waited till we got close to him then grinned and pulled out in front of us, braking would not have helped us so we managed to swerve into the same small side road, he then laughed at us and drove towards the A1.

On to Skipton-on-Swale with a stop at the Canadian memorial and a pleasant ride on the minor road to Catton and Topcliffe.

Afternoon tea was taken at Morrison`s cafe in Boroughbridge then home in the sun.

It was a very pleasant relaxed ride in the sun and I do`nt care if the grass at the front of the house has gone brown, the day certainly made up for it.

Next Wednesday will be an 8-30 start at Low Bridge, Dave S will post the details.

Dave P



Wednesday Wanderers Ride

A good number of cyclists gathered at Hornbeam on another sunny Wednesday but just 7 opted for the Wanderers ride today. Margaret, who usually rides with the Poddlers joined us in the absence of a Poddlers ride. It was suggested that today, as an amalgamation of the Wanderers and the Poddlers we become the "Waddlers". We were pleased to have Tony, a Wheel Easy rider from the early days of the club, back with us after several years being busy with other things. Our small happy band picked up Steven Perry and Mike Pyle at Low Bridge making a comfortable group of 9. Having been caught at various temporary traffic lights getting past Knaresborough we then continued unimpeded on our way to Farnham, Staveley and Minskip. Mike P, who was on a time deadline, left us at Boroughbridge to return via Aldborough and the remaining 8 carried on in the direction of Dishforth. We turned before Norton-le Clay to ride through Marton-le Moor and then Copt Hewick. We stopped in Copt Hewick for a photo. It's a very pleasant village not often cycled through by the Wanderers as to include it takes a ride from Hornbeam to the upper end of mileage for a Wanderers morning ride. After cycling along peaceful country lanes we then had a not very long but rather unpleasant ride along the B6265 past Ripon Racecourse. The road had been freshly, and liberally coated with chippings on top of the normal road surface. The chippings were dangerously loose and traffic caused clouds of dust. What the reason for it was none of us could fathom as it was not a new surface nor melting tarmac. Over the canal bridge and thankfully along country lanes again through Littlethorpe, Bishop Monkton and Markington. The descent and climb after Markington was the sting in the tail of an otherwise predominately flat ride and then we had the swoop down to Ripley with tea and cake at the church (graveyard) which was all very "English village" and convivial. Like a scene from Midsomer Murders but hopefully nothing dastardly going on behind the scenes in the Castle. Thank you for your pleasant company and safe, courteous riding and to Steven for back marking. 40 miles. Dave Griffin





Wednesday Ride

With the promise of another hot day the Wednesday group voted for a gentle meander with few hills. Too many of us for a single group, so Collette, 2 Mikes (I think) and Zoe headed off as one group and Angela, Charlie, Gia, James, Jen, Jill & Jeanie followed on behind to Low Bridge. Abbey Road was unusually busy for a Wednesday morning, but we negotiated cars, vans, cyclists and doggies and then found quieter roads through Goldsborough, Great Ouseburn, across the partially resurfaced Aldwark Bridge and on to Beningborough Hall. Here we were temporarily reunited with Collette's group for our photograph. As I stood in the café queue at 11.28, I found myself hoping that one day I would get to Beningborough in time to order a fried egg sandwich. Instead we all ordered very nice food from the lunch menu with teas and coffees and extra glasses of water to slake our thirst. At this point Paul T suddenly appeared and joined us for lunch and the journey home through Brafferton, Helperby, Boroughbridge, and then through Staveley to Knaresborough and everyone's favourite Hill. There was very little to distract us from the simple joy of cycling an easy route with friends on a glorious summer day. The notable events being an unpleasant wasp sting, a hand bashed on a wing mirror when signalling, a brief encounter with Richard Leak and Martin and being plagued by tiny black insects on the way back up Occaney. These were named as cornflies, fruit flies or thunder bugs depending on where you were brought up. My Garmin tells me we covered around 49 miles with 1,094 feet of climbing at an average speed of 12.5 mph in great company. Jeanie F

Long Ride

Six opted for the long ride today, including new member Stuart Nelson - formerly with Otley CC but now choosing a club nearer home. Castle Howard was the destination preferred to Wharfedale as it offered the prospect of a helpful breeze on the way back. It often happens that a road closure and diversion opens the eyes to a more pleasant route through familiar territory and so it was today with the closure of Boroughbridge Road in Kboro. This led us through the Tentergate area to the road to Scriven - a far more pleasant route to Farnham, with the wonder of why we hadn't tried it before. It would be fair to describe the pace outward via Aldwark Bridge and Tollerton as "brisk" as the flat miles to Sheriff Hutton were gobbled up without undue incident. Here Martin and Richard L chose to stop at Quarmby's

prior to making their return home for afternoon commitments. The remaining four pressed on to Bulmer Bank, with Bob J adopting time-trial mode to catch us up after retrieving his glasses from the cafe. Bulmer Bank came as a shock after the easy miles previously covered, even harder for me by being stuck on the inside of the steep bend by a motorist who must have thought he was being helpful by not overtaking. Onwards to Castle Howard, the magnificent beech avenue and the comforts of the Arboretum Cafe – after negotiating the loose-gravelled access road – where lunch was taken. Helmsley and Ampleforth were quickly dismissed as route add-ons and Peter J took over the helm of the return leg which was via Easingwold, Boroughbridge and Ripley. Not for the first time, yours truly got it wrong after Brandsby bank and ended up in Stillington detached from the main group. No harm done, however, as we regrouped in Easingwold after no more than a few minutes delay. Ices rather than teas were the order of this particular day. Bob suggested an alternative to Thornton Bridge, using the footbridge and bridle path from Helperby towards Boroughbridge. Sceptical at first, with a majority of the group on carbon bikes, we gave it a go to produce our picture for the day, featuring the bridge. The path was dry and bumpy but otherwise OK to ride; it might be a different tale in February, however. Opting for a route back via Roelcliffe, Bishop Monkton and Markington we began our farewells at Ripley with the final group split at Bilton Lane. It had been a hot, quick ride, enjoyed by all, with new twists on old themes for many and 80 miles in the legs. Terry Smith



Away day

Just another day in the Yorkshire Dales? Certainly not. This summer has been so full of fabulous rides that it's hard to rank them but this was one of the best. Perfect day, crystal clear views everywhere. There is nothing like cycling through the Dales in warm sunny weather with a group of friends.

Particular thanks to Richard Leake who designed the route.

There were 13 of us who had missed the June ride. I led one group of 7 and Allen led the other group of 6 through the back roads around Grassington, Thorpe, Cracoe and Hetton.

We regrouped at Airton. Having decided that we were doing well and there was no need for a coffee stop, we set off over the hill to Settle. Great views everywhere.

Lunch was quick and easy at the Olde Naked Man Café in Settle. A lovely little back road took us to Stainforth ready for the big climb of the day – up past Penyghent which looked inviting but, strangely, no-one wanted to climb it.

Then we had a lovely glide down to Halton Gill and Littondale.

The clamour for ice cream meant that we had to re-route to Kettlewell. That neatly linked in to the narrow back road to Grassington.

45.5 miles with 1326 metres of climbing

Perfect. Thanks everyone.

Steve W



