

## Perfect Ride - Riverton Loop 19-6-2022

Ride organiser and leader Kevin Dronfield.

Participants – Kevin D , Kevin B, Peter, Roger, Ron, Eric and Derek.

It's dark and cold and the led car lights pierce through the morning darkness; a person steps out from behind a parked car then stands in the middle of the road waving frantically. It's Eric all rugged up against the cold.



We load his E-bike and begin the long trek to Riverton talking happily about many subjects while the km's fly by. Google maps has one of it's usual freak outs and sends us off the direct route but we find our way down a dirt road into Riverton. Seven of us set off, dressed in as many layers that's possible but it's still cold until the pedalling warms us up.

We start at the commencement of the Rattlers trail, a single track that makes it's way through old pine trees that give off a pleasant fragrance but it ends too soon and we are out in the open plains feeling the cold blast of the Northerly wind. We head to Rhynie and ride through the small town and onto the dirt road of Salter Spring. My sunglasses make everything look bleak but when I take them off there is no difference, it's just a cloudy day which threatens rain that never comes thankfully.



The dirt road is good with no dust thanks to recent rains.



We approach a junction to Almond Tree road which Kev D empathically declines to use due to a recent adventure in his car where he slid off the road. I suggest we should try it out for a bit of adventure surely that's what Perfect rides are about. The friendly cajoling fails to work with Kev D and we set off on a series of bypass roads. We head down the remainder of Almond Tree road with the wind at our backs freewheeling for a number of Km's at speeds of 30+.



It was time for morning tea break and we stopped at an old Church building in the Owen area. The Church with its classic stone walls was in disrepair and the interior was a carpet of Pidgeon poo, anybody need fertiliser? To think there was a community that came here to worship and seek fellowship in this building.



Quite a few photos later we relaxed for a break and moved on before we chilled down too much. We headed uphill along the Alma Tarlee road which took us over a small range and then down into sunny Tarlee, wish full thinking! not really sunny in fact it appeared to get colder.

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The only mud we found



As we approached Tarlee we navigated an old ramshackle bridge that Kev D had found, there was a perfectly good bridge beside it!



Lunch in Tarlee where some of us supported the new café while we sheltered from the cold wind. The pasty was yummy and I believe the coffee was ok to.

From Tarlee we commence the homeward stretch with a gentle incline for most of the way riding on dirt roads called Flavels and Leeward through mainly farming property until the final sealed Bruce road into the back of Riverton. The cold weather having come in again we retreated to the warmth of the local Riverton hotel for some ales and chips. Having satisfied our addiction to cycling the open trails for another month we thank everyone for the many interesting conversations and the shared fun travelling the roads and trails.

Written by Ron Battista

Photos from Kev D and Ron.