

Wednesday, November 11, 2009

Wednesday Rides



EG's Ride Report

Five riders met at Low Bridge. That`s not a bad number for the season of bugs and viruses! Destination where? Should we join the "Double W`s" at Timble and stuff ourselves for £s;2.50? However, its very "Lumpy" from Low Bridge to Timble. In fact it is a continuous climb, and therefore our craving for calories was overcome by our "knackered knees" and we headed for Boroughbridge under clear blue skies. Coffee and toasted teacakes were taken at the top cafe in Boroughbridge. It was noted it was not quite up to Morrisons standards. Bill entertained us with his "Eccles" impersonations, strange looks from other customers under the age of 60, but what on earth would the "Goon Show" mean to them. On to Ripon via Skelton, then guess what? Tea and cakes in Spa Gardens Cafe! Continuing through Studley Royal Park with deer crossing the road in the bright Autumn sunlight and leaves still colourful on the trees. Then a big swoop down from the ridge into Ripley for a banana and toilet stop then back to Harrogate. Superb cycling weather, however in terms of cycling efficiency ie miles per consumption of caffeine and calories the EG`s were down, 38 to 40 miles to two coffee stops and a banana break, can the Poddlers beat this? Dave P

Poddlers Ride Report

There seemed to be hundreds of people mingling at Hornbeam, when I arrived -- early I thought. The rides were announced, the Poddlers going to Timble and cakes as slowly and sedately as the ride leader could control the riders in her care and the Big Boys were going to Timble via goodness knows where and Darley. Well one thing was certain we would make a good, if gentle attempt to get there before they arrived needing cakes and other such nonsense. Amazingly 13 people were counted out of Hornbeam, gracefully wending their ways up Hookstone and Leadhall to The Rossett Path and The Squinting Cat. It was obvious that several people wanted to zoom, they had not realised what poddling was all about. The

zoomers waited patiently at the car park before Little Almscliffe, (where the leaders inability to count was highlighted because there were 14 people in the group now), and seemed relieved when kind Kevin offered to take them on to Timble whilst the rest of the group followed at a pace more befitting their usual habits. Nice tall John encouraged us along and amazingly we found our way to the right turn off to Timble, having said goodbye to Mary, Jean and au revoir to French Marie, who all decided to return home for important dates and doings, via Pennypot Lane, without partaking in cakes etc. Crawford and Dennis not only back marking but time keeping for the 11 o'clock silence, managed to get the group to Timble Village Hall in time for a massed 2 minutes silence. The slow ride leader being on a hill, had her own private 2 minutes with some quiet cows, and the distant sound of church bells. Lovely.

The Village Hall was full of cyclists scoffing cakes and coffee, and we came across Ian (I think it was Ian), who was out and about on his own and recommending all sorts of temptations. I spotted a gentleman who I think I should have got a membership form from but escaped before I could grab him, as I was delayed by the highly recommended piece of coffee cake. Having tried to make a departure in some semblance of groupage, most of us managed to climb out of the Fewston Valley, back onto Pennypot Lane and home, meeting a panic stricken band of big boys and girls, wondering if we'd eaten all the cakes. Sorry Eric only teasing there were one or two cakes left, Poddlers don't eat cakes. Who knows what happened to Jane, Richard and Jack the man I needed to catch, I hope they arrived home safely. We worried about them. Penny Pot Lane was a downhill joy, and at the crossroads to Killinghall Kevin, Dennis and Crawford departed, leaving for their ordered lunches and important meetings. Thanks for your help men. Lu Lu and Sin and leader continued towards the horrid hill after Ethelburgers estate, and we all got up to Cornwall Road gracefully and without stopping, to continue on our ways without having collapsed. Great company, great weather, great morning out. CG

Wheel Easy Ride Report

Normally I am unshockable but the sheer quantity of cakes consumed by Wheel Easy members at Timble Village Hall today left me astonished. While all this was going on I, of course, sat back from the affray and only consumed moderately. Scurrilous rumours that I ate 6 cakes and drank 2 cups of coffee are completely without foundation and are clearly based on anti-Welsh sentiments. (Can I take legal action against Yvonne who was one of the ring-leaders?)

After all, getting 10 rebellious riders through Hampsthwaite, Birstwith and up the bank from Darley should mean that I should be deserving of unstinting and lavish praise. I suppose the glaring sun and fabulous views affected their tempers. Under all this pressure I was overcome by an hallucination of 12 Guinea Fowl on the road, and then I lost track of where I was. Well what do you expect?

I think the 3 prospective members met on the road near Fewston will think we are a weird lot (Not really. Ed). As you can see from the photos I had to get the whip out for the whole 32 miles. Martin W

Additional Report

Wheel Easy have learned not to trust the weather reports and today was a good example. A wonderful clear sunny day, warm in the sun and fabulous views. 24 assembled at Hornbeam to either Puddle to Timble or to wend their way led by Martin up some serious hills via Hampsthwaite, back road to Birstwith, past Birstwith Hall which looked divine and on to

Darley. Nice climb up Stumps Lane to Menwith Hill and then to the reservoir and Timble village hall where we all feasted on delicious cakes, scones and flapjacks. The Poddlers who we met as they were leaving tried to explain that they had eaten everything but they were telling porkies! These ladies of Timble know how to bake! Home via Stainburn with Peter, Eric and Charles adding some extra miles. Gia

