

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Wednesday Rides



Poddlers Ride Report

A decidedly grey and inauspicious start to the day damp and murky but the true stalwarts assembled at Hornbeam for the Poddlers midweek ride. Linda, Peter, Alison, Kevin, Jenny, John, Dennis, and Tall John. Despite the cold gloomy grey weather we all set off with great gutso lead by Dennis for the first stop at Low Bridge where we all mingled together with the EG group before setting off again for Little Ribston by which time the weather seemed to be getting even gloomier. The usual assortment of kind hearted motorists overtaking us at speed on the winding country road to Little Ribston and then cutting in and one dear chap demonstrating to us he was beginning to master the basics of counting on his fingers by raising a finger or two in our direction as he passed (at least thats what I thought he meant?).

On to Kirk Deighton and then Wetherby where two of our party left us to head back on their own . A change of plan now and Dennis suggested to everybody's agreement going on to Boston Spa along the old railway line/cycle track. A short journey around the housing estate bought us to the pedestrian underpass beneath the A1 and our first hurdle FLOODING. As the underpass is on a slight slop the entrance was flooded, not too deep I heard someone mention as Dennis bravely set forth to ride through followed by John. What was thought to be just a few inches deep was more of 14 inches deep and whilst Dennis managed to get through with feet and ankles well soaked John was not so lucky and had to put "feet down" in the middle of the deepest part. This left the next conundrum, Dennis and John (with wet feet and legs) on one side of the flooding and the remainder of the group (with dry feet) on the other side discussing "options". Onto plan B (or was it plan "C" by now) and it was decided that Dennis and John should do the decent thing and return back through the flooded part of the underpass and rejoin the main group . Before they embarked on such a perilous return crossing Tall John strategically positioned himself with camera to capture the

"parting of the seas" as the brave riders recrossed the flood to great aplomb as the group was again reunited as one.

A change of plan now (onto plan D by now) and a route was formulated to return via Collingham, and a short ride down the very busy main road to Collingham (one of those "have I got enough life insurance cover moments ".) and back to Wetherby and then onto the cycle track where we all posed for a photograph and a routine sugar fix for tall John from his flask. Onwards further and back to Spofforth and then Follyfoot before splitting up near the Yorkshire Show Ground and making our own way home. A total of 28 miles of thereabouts and all good fun and home in time for lunch Apologies to anybody who's full name's I have not included (I'm still learning everybody's first names!). John W (tall john)

Wheel Easy Ride Report.

Ten gathered for the Wednesday ride and with Martin desperate for his Costa fix we headed towards Wetherby with enough miles ridden to justify the café stop. Eric was a gentleman who waited for Glyn, then Glyn returned the compliment when Eric had a puncture. Martin led us out through Farnham where we left Paul to cycle to Ripon to sort out our Wednesday Xmas lunch at Spa Gardens. As we approached Marton cum Grafton we left the fine clear skies for a very damp mist which lasted until we had skirted Great Ouseburn and Thorp Underwood. We had a photostop at the Fisherman's Café which was closed and pedalled via Malcolm's secret route up Frank's Lane, through Whixley and across the A59 to the quiet track where we manouevered the bikes over the level crossing. From there it was a fast run down the bike path to Wetherby. The EG's came flying in formation towards us and only one guess where they had filled up on coffee and breakfast! Anyway they all looked very happy and in fine form. By this time the weather had cleared. After Costa where Sue was much impressed with her two handled capuccino cup and having been joined by Glyn and Eric we went to do some Sustrans Rangers research for next week's work party. Everyone pleased to see the new signs in Spofforth and not a plant in sight! Glyn then cycled home to Leeds, Martin to buy timber and grit for next week, Yvonne, Sue and Angela no doubt with important jobs to be done. Gia, Eric and Malcolm had an urgent need to inspect the horse manure in the tunnel under the bypass and there was certainly plenty of it. NYCC have agreed to clear it and once clear there is good drainage to keep it clear of water. 37 miles completed in good company and we kept warm and dry. Good news also today from Crawford who has been battering away at the council to repair the fence at Bilton Lane Car Park. The officer reported that the work would be done in the next fortnight. Thanks Crawford. Gia

EGs Ride Report

A large gathering (for a December) of cyclists appeared at Low Bridge at around 10am, comprising EG`s Double W`s and Poddlers all going to different destinations. To the untrained eye it would be difficult to see who was who, but of course the EG`s are the ones with the grey hair (or lack of it) and the rheumatism/arthritis. The others shot off leaving the EG`s to await the stroke of 10 before setting off in a southerly direction to Wetherby. The seven riders, not quite the magnificent seven but we do our best, comprised, Bill, Colin, Dave P, John, Peter, Roy and Terry. At the start of the Harland Way we had a wave with some Poddlers. Our first coffee break was taken at Wetherby (that`s around the 10 mile mark, because we have our priorities), some EG`s had scrambled eggs on toast, one EG who would have normally hit the beans or eggs declined as he had eaten a " Full English" in Knaresborough prior to meeting us. In the cafe our group was joined by a lone cyclist for a chat (where was he from ?). Then it was Northwards up the cycle track alongside the A168 to Walshford on the way

meeting the "Double W`s" ie Wheeleasy Wednesdays, then continuing up the A168 to Marton cum Grafton.

On the way to Boroughbridge we encountered a large puddle that covered all the road. At Boroughbridge John and Terry left us, the remaining five pressing on to Ripon via Skelton.

Then into Spa Gardens Cafe for bacon sandwiches and cakes (we know how to live). After our light repast it was up the hill in Studley Park to Haddockstones then on to another large puddle that completely covered the road at the aptly named Watergate, then to Ripley and home.

The weather had been kind to us, no wind to speak of and the rain had held off. Mileage around 49 to 51 miles. Dave P



