



Poddlers Ride Report

No snow. No ice ice. No black ice. No frost. No hail. No gale force wind. No sun. No blue sky. No rain (if you close up your eyes and pretend). No coughs, flu or colds. No Liz. No Sue W. No Skipton Lynda. No Max (he was manning the crime scene....and the case of the disappearing oven.) So all systems go. The Poddler's would ride.

Ten keen regulars set off at speed at 9.30 prompt, leaving the Plyms to ponder on which cafes they were going to visit today. We were heading for Little Alms Cliff Crag and the wilds of Menwith. After following the usual route in a roundabout fashion, passing through Trevor's side snicket, round Rossett, near Ashville, glancing at The Squinting Cat to Beckwithshaw and heading up Norwood Lane to the crag top, gardening John announced that he'd forgotten just what a long drag that jolly little climb was. Conversation as ever was interesting and varied and I for one was fascinated by the joys of the computer help chat line, with the queues of polite young men desperate and waiting for you to call them, in order to sort out your many problems.....well that is what I thought Alison N. said. Caravan Lynda and Pete's Christmas caravanning sounded like the perfect way to spend the festive season, and two new games for family get togethers were explained by Dennis..Grab, and Alison....Poor Pussy. Confused, I've only just started, you have not heard anything yet.

Obviously overexcited by all this conversation Sur John surged on and got lost, but he obviously was not lost as he seemed to have popped into the Sun Inn whilst we waited for him to catch up from his diversion, somewhere totallly different. At Penny Pot Lane Corner the ride leader opted out and left the group to follow Dennis to Hampsthwaite via Menwith and then home. Alison, Lynda and Peter followed Dennis. And I discovered Sue D (I always go this way), Trevor (I've done enough for my first ride of the year), Sur and Gardening Johns (no excuses) and Richard (I have a date with Len Goodman and

Strictly) were following in my tyre tracks. Penny Pot Lane was a joy and after some discussion on the merits of Rowden then West Lanes as opposed to the post Ethelburger's hill, we all continued along to the Hampsthwaite and Killinghall outskirts, and finally Knox wards and home for an early lunch. Quite enough for one damp, cold, wet, grey, January day. 22.34 for 6 riders, and I would imagine about 27 for 4 riders unless Dennis got everyone who followed him lost!!!! Caroline G

Click on slide show for all today's photos

Wheel Easy Ride Report

It was fantastic to get out without any ice or snow on the roads and eight of us set out from Hornbeam in light mist. At Low Bridge we paused for a photo and Sue C said that with four pink jackets and four yellow jackets we looked like a Battenburg cake. So the Battenburg ride it became, and we set off around Abbey Road, on to Farnham, and Littlethorpe. We took the back road leading to the canal bridge near Dallamires Lane, and on the side of the canal there were huge chunks of ice with lots more floating in the water. The effects of the last cold spell will obviously take a while to go.

We continued past the Ripon Racecourse and took the turning to Skelton-on-Ure which took us through to Boroughbridge for coffee, tea, and mountainous heaps of toast at the Laden Table. The route homeward was via Marton-cum-Grafton, Arkendale, and Knaresborough. A good ride in good company and the chance to get a few miles in for the start of the year. Martin W Distance 36 x 8 miles = 272m

EG's Ride Report

The news spread rapidly..... the EG Meister is ill..... the EG Meister has a bad back..... the EG Meister can't make it today.....Whatever will we do without Dave Preston?

7 Leaderless EGs (OK, LEGs!!) assembled at Low Bridge and a plan was hatched by one Dave Watson (seems the EGs now only respond to leaders called "Dave"), which involved Tadcaster. So off we set vaguely in the direction of Tadcaster. Last time the EGs went to Tadcaster, my memory bank recalled going via Wetherby and Thorp Arch, both of which have commendable assets - coffee stops! Halfway to Wetherby, the EG deputy Meister turned off to Cowthorpe. Could this be a cunning plan to take us to a new cafe, unknown to the rest of the EGs? No such luck! We went through Cowthorpe and Tockwith, then turned right - aah, this will take us to Thorp Arch after all. 10 minutes later we were outside Thorp Arch, but our leader continued relentlessly towards Tadcaster. The rest of the journey was punctuated by comments like "Dave Preston would never have missed 2 cafes, Dave Preston wouldn't treat us like this, Dave Preston knows how to look after the EGs". At 11.45 we arrived at Tadcaster - Tykes Cafe to be precise - having set a new record on an EG's ride: 22 miles without a coffee stop!

We returned via Bramham, Bardsey, East Keswick, Collingham, and Sicklinghall, during which time the temperature rose from a nippy 4 degrees in Tadcaster to a very balmy 12 degrees, a level we haven't seen for many weeks. Consequently, clothes were being shed at each stop of the return leg. We also stopped for a brief photo shoot overlooking the Wharfe Valley. Today's photos do not include the one of Norman and Bill removing their overtrousers outside Collingham Primary School - that's with the Crown Prosecution Service. Come back DP, the EG's need you!

For the Captain's Log: 7 riders completed 44 miles: 308 elderly miles total. Eric

2011 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 860 YTD 3632



