



Poddlers Ride Report

I should have seen it coming; after all it is nearly the 5th Anniversary of Wheel Easy. And, with the media attention being given to the role of the Big Society and the strong rumour that Malcolm has accepted one of Mr Cameroon's £s;20,000 a year Big Society facilitator (bribes)x jobs that he would be keen to ensure that Wheel Easy Rides would match the criteria set.

I know I'm slow but I started to wonder what was happening when two "novices" were introduced to the group by Gia (watch out for Ruth and Ian) and when Gia asked for our route because Malcolm "might" be joining us. Novices, bah! clearly they were seasoned cyclists. Ian (watch out for him) tried to lull us into a sense of false security claiming that he had left a wheel at home in Knaresborough and would drive home and meet us at Low Bridge. After Malcolm mysteriously joined us as we descended through the showground. Then the flash of light occurred and the realisation that we were being BIKESHEDed (Bicycling Inspectorate (for) Kindling Enthusiasm, Shared Humiliation (and) Extended Distances)

Malcolm was the Inspector and Ruth and Ian the lay Inspectors! Wow what to do? I expressed my concerns to the usual suspects knowing that each would play their part. Clearly Malcolm was testing me as we went along Half Penny Lane chattering about the Ripley Public enquiry but subtly increasing the pace. I think I passed that test when I suggested that we went a little slower to ensure that riders were not dropped. At a brief stop on the road to Burton Leonard Surge John played a blinder by offering the "inspector" a piece of his, according to Caroline, yummy new recipe Nigella bars. Nice one John.

When it was time to do mortal combat with the A61 as we went from Wormald Green to Markington Caroline took the initiative and led us down the main road saying loudly for the benefit of the

inspection team that would be safer for making the right turn All was going well. What a team. Trevor, fresh back from another exotic holiday even got into the spirit of things by reducing his moaning by half...bless. On the ascent to Markington, Ruth (watch out for her) feigned slight exhaustion and Caroline dropped back to keep her company and "talk" her upwards. This I think got us through the comradery test.

As I manfully tried to lead the peloton up the climb from Markington to the Drover's Inn I was passed near the summit by El Butler uttering the immortal words "you must push through all the way to the top", thanks! I think we passed the decency test when a couple of gents succumbing to the call of nature went "off piste", behind trees and bushes and didn't resort to their usual "Radcliffe" technique. On route to Ripley Malcolm tested us again. He left a message with Kevin that he was leaving the ride to buy some eggs -likely story.! Hero Kev did the right thing. With legs a blur he pushed his mountain bike to the front of the peloton to inform the ride leader - what a star.

At Ripley miraculously Malcolm re-appeared for the group photo. Did he want visual proof of his inspection? Here we left our three inspectors at the café pondering the contents of their report. Will it be favourable - will it be outstanding? We made the usual return back via Knox before bidding each other farewell. Personally I think we did good and look forward to the decision.

Mileage Poddlers 8x 24.45 Inspection team 3x 24.45 minus 3miles to get wheel! Max.

Click on slide show for all today's photos

Wheel Easy Ride Report

Forecast had wavered overnight from heavy to light, and the usual gang turned up for their Wednesday dose of cycling and cafes. Boroughbridge seems to maintain a wonderful pull for many but with the triathlon bunch needing some hills surely a trip west was in order so we set off for Cockpit Farm via Fewston, Timble and over the moor to Askwith. Dave R and Steve took the Low Snowden route and met the rest of us at the café where Glyn A joined us having cycled there from Leeds. His antennae must have been strong to guess where we were heading today. Martin and Yvonne rushed off back over the moor to meet someone in a car park which sounded very dubious but it all had something to do with ebay, then Paul wasn't quite sure about trading whom or what on ebay but Sue tried to reassure him! Sarah was out in her shorts today and tackling the hills trying to stay in second gear, their training is certainly looking good.

Good day out, Bob, Steve and Dave raced up and away out of Kirkby Overblow, while Sue, Gia and Sarah took in the sights of Drury Lane to ponder on the ways of the modern world. The old world had been flattened completely! 34miles x 10. Gia

EG's Ride Report

Well the weather forecasts did not seem too good, though we all seem to have different ones with slight variations on the wetness theme.

Whilst waiting for numbers to arrive the rest of Wheel Easy arrived at Low Bridge, Poddlers and All. After a chat with Malcolm M on the latest on the Ripley route they were soon all were on their way. By 10 am the numbers had built up to Ten, which is a nice number to have, as we don't have to remove our shoes to check if we are all present. After Dave Watsons excellent ride over the lumpy bits north of Ripon it was decided to head southish to Tadcaster. Which has embarrassing memories for Dave P, but who cares the lumps are less. Then it was on to Cowthorpe and down Rudgate to Wighill, into a slight headwind and into Taddy and Tykes Tea Rooms, which were remarkably quiet, this enabled us to get in t` parlour where an open fire burned ah! marvellous. The rain then started while we had our refreshment and toasted our toes. Prior to this John R left us to return to Harrogate, was he consumed by guilt or lust, read next weeks episode.

On emerging the rain had stopped, so it was on to Bramham and some off road riding down the main street whose total surface had been ripped off prior to resurfacing. Then it was in to the Old Folks Shelter, Rob was far too young to enter but we took him in. Amongst the jokes and tales a photo was taken, here Bill showed his age and perhaps his passion by stating he was sitting on this chair just like Christine Keeler Ah! memories. Again emerging from shelter the rain had stopped so we continued on another Roman Road (my they were busy little Bee`s) before branching off to Collingham, Linton and

Sicklinghall, here whilst having a comfort stop catch up, Norman who is always ready to help people with major surgery on their bikes, was seen taking Terry`s trousers off. There are boundaries in being helpful so no more will be said. Eric also recalled his experiences in Africa whilst on safari, and with his talk of dead giraffes and scavengers (brought on by the sight of a squadron of Red Kites), blood guts and smells managed to put people off eating at all tonight. A quick banana break was taken at Kirkby Overblow before heading for home.

Not a bad day for such a forecast and us missing what rain there was.

Mileage say $9 \times 42 = 378$. and JR well who know`s $1 \times 30 = 30$. Dave P

2011 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 1023 YTD 21720



