



Poddlers Ride Report

There was talk on the morning news of possible delayed flights from Leeds Bradford Airport due to fog but two formations of poddlers, 10 in all (Caroline, Liz, Alison, Jenny, Dennis, Sur-John, Kevin, Steven, Glyn, Dave) left Hornbeam on time and headed up Hookstone and Leadhall through Pannal Ash and Beckwithshaw towards Little Alms Cliff where Caroline photographed the band appearing like cheerful daffodils on wheels out of the murky gloom. Left at Bland Hill, aptly named today as the mist obscured the normally fine views. Up and down Norwood Edge to Farnley and on to Leathley for a much needed banana stop before the steady climb up the lane to Braythorn where Dennis suggested to Dave that crampons and ropes might have been handy for this route. Getting a bit chilly as well as misty now despite the boiler-stoking uphill. A shortish stint along the Otley Road before turning right for the long downhill into Burn Bridge up to Rossett Green Lane and return along Hookstone. 23 miles, might have felt like 40 but the intrepid poddlers were still smiling. Dave G

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Wheel Easy Ride Report

Best laid plans etc etc! Having got very excited about Phil's Sunday ride I felt that despite the gloom that the day wasn't that bad enough to abandon altogether! Martin sensibly suggested a café stop in Ripon to consider our options.

Welcome to Julie on her first Wheel Easy ride, she is leading a charity ride to Edinburgh raising money for Dr. Barnardos.

Thirteen of us set off to Low Bridge where the EG's look very lost without their leader but I am sure someone rescued them once we had gone although one of them shouted after us that they might catch us up! No chance!

Martin and Yvonne inspected the road beyond Bishop Monkton as we were concerned it might be closed and the rest of us did the Copgrove path to Roecliffe and cycled to Ripon via Boroughbridge and Skelton.

After our stop at Spa Café, Martin and Yvonne returned to do something with bikes, David headed back to Great Ouseburn, Julie, Richard, Dave R and David W sped off threatening to do the ride as described on the tin, while Jon P and Sandy led Paul, Steve, Gia and Sarah safely through the gloom to Galphay, Sawley and the Drovers. Here Sarah left us to go home via Ripley, Jon went visiting in Birstwith and the rest of us had our second café stop at Sophie's in Hampsthwaite which was excellent.

Good day, despite the weather, good company and I am sure if we could have seen where we were going this was a fabulous ride!!

2x 30, 10x 45, 1x 50, 1x 35. Gia

Richard's group report

From Ripon Spa onto Galphay, having to keep counting in case any deserted or lost heart in the mist that by now seemed more like rain. Through Winksley though it could have been anywhere.

Brimham seemed of no consequence so we left that to the EGs who obviously had evening pass outs.

Yorke's Folly can be done on Sunday. Fed at Fountains and advised the NT volunteer of our thoughts re the proposed new bike park, as the Way of The Roses bikers have increased their visitors significantly. Straight home in the gloom via Ripley having added 1250 ft and 22m from Ripon back for 2.30. Richard

EG's Ride Report

"Waters E reporting for duty in the mist, Sir!"

Mmmmm. I'm not sure I go along with the new leadership regime within the ranks of the EGs. As soon as Dave P's back is turned and knee removed, up pops Dave W, making Colonel Gaddafi look like a paragon of virtue.

"I bring news of our sick comrades, Sir!" continued Waters E. "Critchley J is continuing to recover well. We took his hip out on a practice hobble to Wetherspoons last Friday lunchtime without any ill effects, so he's expecting to be back there for his usual eleventeen pints and a curry tomorrow night, Sir!"

Preston D, our honoured, revered and trusted true leader, is still in hospital having had his knee removed on Saturday, but hopes to climb some steps today, and if he succeeds he'll be allowed back home and out on his bike in no time, Sir!"

"So where are we going today, Sir?"

Now, regular readers of this column will know that when Dave P (sorry, he must now be referred to as Preston D under our new deputy leadership) is away, such a question usually results in 3 hours of debate and indecision, with Bill (sorry, Whale B) suffering from a panic attack as he might consequently arrive home after the sun has set over the yard-arm. Not today, oh no, we have a new decisive autocratic regime! Watson D has been planning his strategy for the 4 days since Preston D lost his knee. His answer was lightening fast: "RISPLITH"

So off we set to Risplith. None of us had a clue where we were going, and we daren't ask in case our new leader (well, deputy leader) should disappear into the fog and leaves us all in the Bermuda triangle of North Yorkshire. So we dutifully followed him through Scriven, Lingerfield, Farnham, Bishop Monkton. We passed some other WE cyclists in the mist, then on to Markington, Fountains Abbey (coffee stop), Sawley, RISPLITH. None of us had seen it before, it seemed to bear an uncanny resemblance to the Marie Celeste, and certainly none of us would ever recognise it again even if we stumbled across it in daylight. So that was the highlight of the day over. On we trundled in the mist....Grantley....Winksley.....Galphay. They could have been anywhere 'cos we couldn't see anything in the 5 yards of visibility, but we did stumble across a second group of WE cyclists somewhere out there in the mist. Eventually we arrived in Ripon Spa Gardens, by which time it was getting dangerously close to Whale B's bedtime. The mist lifted temporarily so we could snatch a photo. Over food we could then indulge in what EG's do best, our passion for putting the world to right!

Want to know how to redesign a nuclear reactor so that it will work even if an earthquake and tsunami turns it upside down (which the whole world does)? Just ask Bill.

Want to know why Tanganyika changed its name to Tanzania (which Watson D did)? Just ask Eric. Want to know why the EGs were only allowed one refreshment stop before 2pm (which all the EG's did)? Just ask Watson D!

So with darkness threatening, Whale B was now speeding southwards for the safety of Harrogate with the EGs floundering in his wake. We managed to catch him at the top of Sandy Bank where we paused awhile.

"This is the most miserable ride I have ever been on" confessed Watson D with remarkable honesty.

We agreed unanimously that under his new ride leadership it had been very miserable indeed and we needed Preston D back at the helm as quickly as possible.

Get well soon, Dave P, with very best wishes from all the EGs!

Note for the captains log: 8 EGs attended for duty. 2 (Oberheim N and Russell J) managed to escape at Fountains Abbey, say 32 miles each. 2 (Watson D and Eaton J) completed the ride from Knaresborough, 42 miles each, and 4 (Bradley P, Whale W, Waterhouse R, & Waters E) completed the ride from Harrogate, 52 miles each. A total of very misty 356 miles, and we didn't see any of them! Eric

2011 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 1176 YTD 31107



