



Poddlers Ride Report

Such careful planning and cajoling had gone into the production of the Poddlers' ride leader schedule. It was a meticulously prepared and tabulated, and only rivalled in beauty by Harry Beck's iconic London Tube System map. Fortunately Beck had all the stations on his map; Wednesday 30th March 2011 does not feature on the Poddlers' ride schedule. What a mistake to make! In order to cover up this glaring error "her indoors who likes to be outdoors" produced a Gaiquesque look and said you will lead the ride won't you. What option did I have?

Weather forecast checked - wind steadily increasing from SW, rain expected about 12.30pm. Oh thanks again for enquiring about my double man flu. It's a lot better now although the olfactory ducts are still consuming vast quantities of kitchen roll. So where to go: it could only be one place, Kirby Overblow. (Well done those of you who did; those who didn't do try to keep up). The route was Little Alms Cliff Cragg, through the forest to Leathley, onwards to Weeton and Kirby Overblow where Surge John surged off, El Butler gave a virtuoso performance of the benefits of a healthy lifestyle by creaming up the hill to arrive a full five minutes before the rest of us. Here Sue, Pete and Lynda took the alternative route home whilst the rest of us returned via Rudding Park.

For once there are few incidents to report. Sue's chain jumped off after 100 metres whilst she was going in the opposite direction to the rest of us but with a self help group of one she effected repairs. We saw a magnificent, unusually coloured pheasant type bird at close quarters near Leathley and my chain jammed just as I was trying to emulate "El Butler" on the climb out of Kirby Overblow.

A good ride, some hills and nice swoops, good company - as ever, and the rain just held off. Captain's log 11 x 24ish miles. Max

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Wheel Easy Ride Report

Nine of us set off for coffee at Fountains going via Hampsthwaite, Burnt Yates, Shaw Mills and Bishop Thornton. Unfortunately Jill had to turn back as she was feeling unwell. We enjoyed refreshments at the café beside the lake before heading to Ripon, Littlethorpe, and onto to Bishop Monkton. Although we had no official leader we all kept looking towards Martin for decisions and direction instructions and it was going well until we reached Bishop Monkton. Gia, Malcolm and Sue appeared and Richard, Bob and Bridget disappeared. After a lesson from Martin on how to repair a chain Steve, David and Sandy headed home and Martin and myself were tempted by another coffee. - Paul

Malcolm, Sue and Gia after a delayed start arrived at the top of Sandy Bank to discover Malcolm had a broken link in his chain. We had spare links, we had the tools, Sue and Gia had attended Norman's bike maintenance class, and Malcolm had done one in Leeds too. However, Gia despite having done the course most recently found she had forgotten crucial details, Sue remembered things like not pushing the pin too far, Malcolm looked set to have a go but then we had that light bulb moment realising that we would soon meet up with the rest of the group coming back from Fountains. Martin would know what to do! So we rode on, Malcolm careful not to push the gears too hard and met Martin and the others at Bishop Monkton. Here we all studiously watched as Martin donned his latex gloves and showed how it should be done. Job done and we were on our way. Paul and Martin were keen for another coffee stop so we went to Boroughbridge via Roecliffe and settled in at The Laden Table. On back to Harrogate via Minskip, Paul to Pannal, Sue to pay the plasterer, Malcolm to take pics of potholes on Bilton Lane and buy a new chain, whilst Martin and Gia took up Dave Preston's offer of tea and scones. Celia's cheese scones were delicious and Dave's recovery from knee replacement amazing. Then the EG's arrived, a lovely way to end our ride. Gia

EG's Ride Report

Having picked up Dave P's texted invitation to call round for tea & cakes after the days ride and following a senior moment (loss of memory!!!) I arrived at Low Bridge later than usual. I expected the E.G.'s to have already decided on their chosen route for the day but should have known better since all eyes turned in my direction once again.

Only five members had turned up, Peter Bradley arriving just as Eric announced he was to attend a meeting at the British Library, Thorp Arch at 11.20am. So the decision made we all 6 headed south along Wetherby Rd. towards Thorp Arch on a circuitous route via Tockwith. Arriving outside the Library gates exactly at 11.20am we were met by one of Eric's associates also attending the meeting. (How's that for timing?)

Off we headed to the Bistro for toasted teacakes, scones and coffee and then waving our goodbyes to Eric to enjoy his "free lunch", or so the rumours suggested, we remaining 5 continued along a meandering course to Tadcaster, where arriving for late lunch at about 1.30pm we discovered Wetherby Wheelers had scooped all the soup of the day!!!

Beans on toast then, although some settled for rather large slices of cake! (John R. & Colin). Leaving the cafe 50 mins later we travelled south to Saxton and then aimed for Boston Spa in light rain via Bramham & Clifford. Taking the quicker route through Thorp Arch village we returned through Wetherby, following the main road to Spofforth and branching off towards Follifoot, picking up Rudding lane and heading for Dave's via the show ground. Arriving at our final destination at 4.20pm we were greeted with the pleasant surprise of Dave at the open door. Celia, Dave's wife had laid out the cakes and made us a "grand" cup of tea, later to be accompanied by a drop of the hard stuff, and very nice it was too.

We were all pleased to see that Dave P was making good progress following his recent knee operation and that Celia was coping well herself, having had the worry and stress to deal with.

Group photo was called for and we all then cycled off to our own corners of Harrogate/Knaresborough. E.G.'s ride mileage:- 1 x 62, 1 x 60, 3 x 55 , 1 x 19 = 306 total. David W.

2011 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 920 YTD 39280



