



Poddlers Ride Report

The forecast was excellent, the actuality was poor, grey and windy, but still we had 19 people wanting to poddle....word had obviously spread about the new era of exciting, self led, interesting rides. Sadly it was back to the same old same old for this week. When we arrived at Low Bridge it was decided to have two or three groups to keep things safe, the legendary El Butler and following in his wonderful wheel tracks, his new side kick, Alison kindly volunteered to take one group ahead, and Sue D tried to persuade people to make another group in the interests of safety, but El Butler fans were having none of it..... they had an opportunity to follow in the tracks of the greatest and were not going to reform. We took the right turn after Abbey Road, and headed through North Rigton (or somewhere) towards Spofforth and turned left to the main road bike path into Wetherby, John W, rhubarb grower to the royals and the thinking woman's Alan Titchmarsh, showing us how to get onto this excellent path Harland Way Path. Sur John was spotted escaping from the El Butler/Alison group having been called back home for something. At Boston Spa superb car park comfort break area we regrouped with the aim of making another split when we reached the A1 cycle path. This we did but not after El Butler led us up a blind Alley and Trevor had a puncture.

Safe in the knowledge that Trevor was no stranger to mending punctureshe holds the current puncture record of 4 in one outing, and being in the safe hands of El B, we rather callously left them to sort themselves out. Hopefully they made their lunch deadlines. At the A1 cycle path Sue D took 9 people who needed to get home sometime before dark to the right and back to Harrogate via Wetherby and Spofforth and Rudding Lane, and Sue W reassured us all that we were going the right way and we could get to Collingham by heading left.

By now grey had turned to bright sun and blue skies, clothes were being discarded with joyous

abandon, everyone was too warm, not through over exertion due to cycling, but due to the air temperature...strange and confusing for those of us used to winter conditions. The remaining 7 continued in a state of complete euphoria brought on by sun, scenery and a down the hill sweep into Collingham, on to Linton, Wetherby, Spofforth and back home towards Harrogate, only to be tempted once again by the thought of a cold drink at the Samuel Smiths Pub in Follifoot, which certainly put our immaculate timing and speed back a little. So despite vast numbers of enthusiastic riders, I think we returned safely having only lost 2 or 3 people, had 1 puncture, confused a nice young Dutchman, nearly exhausted Caroline B, back to Poddling after her winter break, and set a truly international tone to the whole event with french conversation courtesy of Michelle. 35.3 miles for 7, 30 miles for 9, 20 miles for 1 and hopefully 30 ish for 2 to be confirmed. Thank you all who helped make this a pleasant ride for me at any rate. Caroline G

Addendum to Caroline's Poddlers' Report

For a variety of reasons, eight of us needed to be home for 1pm so it was with reluctance that we left our esteemed colleagues at Boston Spa Cycle Path and headed via all available cycle paths to Spofforth Hags, the Showground and Wetherby Road and Hookstone Road for those, like me, who find the hill out of the Showground a pain!! Our noble "Flying Dutchman" declared himself well impressed and we hope to see him again soon.

Of note was the courtesy and good humour of the two chaps who were chopping a tree, which had fallen during the last gale on the Wetherby to Spofforth Cycle Path. On Sunday, we had all squeezed through a gap conveniently placed between the roots and main trunk. Today, we had to stop as the trunk was being sawn. However, our noble arboreal artistes severed the tree in such a way that we could all pass. They even offered to delay Pete, who was behind having had to change his battery - perceived by our heroes as a distinct advantage in any race!! Photographic evidence of this gallantry attached!! 30 miles of excellent cycling. Sue D

Click on slide show for all today's photos

Wheel Easy Ride Report

Eight riders set off with the intention of going to Ilkley, but we should have known better as Richard was with us! His enthusiasm for long rides took us beyond Ilkley to Bolton Abbey, Burnsall, Appletreewick and Stump Cross Caverns. At Duck Street Junction Richard suggested Pateley Bridge and Yorke's Folly but only Julie took up his offer and the others continued down Duck Street. Angela, Steve and David short off returning via Penny Pot Lane, while David, Sarah and myself returned via Hampsthwaite. It was an excellent 55 mile ride with great views and coffee stops at Weston and Burnsall. Thanks Richard for encouraging a few of us to go further and for waiting on numerous occasions to allow me to catch up. Paul

Leaving the others to Duck St and hopefully not full into the wind, Julie and Richard headed down to Pateley via the Coldstones route, saved 50p and did not bother with tea and as Julie's current bike had not done Yorke's Folly we had to do it. (Steve if you lost a spanner when you were there last it's still there.) Then a fast return home for Birstwith / Harrogate and new brake blocks. . 2@59m ,4000ft. <http://bikeroutetoaster.com/Course.aspx?course=225574>. Richard

EG's Ride Report

Has anybody experienced a "Free-hub" failure whilst out on a ride? A very rare occurrence says Norman!!!! Yet another problem to solve out in the field so to speak. A little tester for Rob in readiness for his trip across America. So back to the ride report proper. Meeting 7 EG's at Low Bridge the usual cry was heard to try to establish our intended route. Eyes turned in my direction and despite any protestations I led the ride northward. Leaving via the usual route to Farnham we headed to "Tasty Snacks"@ Boroughbridge via Arkendale and the back road through Grafton, taking in Aldborough before tucking into our scones and toasted teacakes. Bill was still complaining that despite his efforts to rid his bike of an annoying "click" it was still worryingly following him around. Ideas were invited but whatever was suggested he seemed to have already covered it.(We'll return to this later!)

Onward we travelled towards Easingwold on the premise that the early cafe stop precluded my potentially longer ride via Coxwold. Arriving at "Inspirations" cafe 40 mins after leaving "Tasty Snacks " due to the brisk following wind. Rob was complaining of a seemingly minor problem with his bike remarking that since riding alongside Bill the "ticking" sound experienced on Bill's bike had jumped, like the proverbial flea, onto his machine.

Before diving into the cafe for lunch, further investigations by our "in-house" cycle mechanic, Norman revealed a more serious problem than just a "tick". It seemed that the "free-hub" appeared loose and before continuing after lunch would need attention.

Following a good lunch and discussions between us as to who had the required cycle tools to tackle the loose "free-hub", we all readied ourselves to continue on our way after repairs to Rob's bike were completed. Further investigation exposed a more serious issue. Norman reported that there appeared a potentially far more significant failure. It was felt that since no one appeared to be carrying the requisite tools to disassemble the "free-hub" we would need to seek out the local bike shop. Off we all went calling out our encouragement to Rob who by now was feeling somewhat guilty at holding up the ride. We assured him it was no problem since the whole point of cycling in a group was to help when things went wrong!

On arriving at the local shop, ("Willis's" on the main road), we were greeted by the sight of small farming machinery and initially couldn't see any evidence of a cycle repairer. Perseverance paid off and the eventually the offending wheel was removed. After disassembly the local "expert" concluded the "free-hub" had completely sheared inside and beyond repair. However he was able to offer a replacement rear wheel. Rob was rather caught out without his credit card but Eric was able to come to the rescue . So, wheel in hand ,Rob, with help from others, reassembled the existing sprockets onto the new wheel and fitted it to his machine. Eric in the meantime paid the bill reporting, to his surprise, that he had only been charged £;24.99 with no labour costs incurred. A true bargain and worthy of remembering for future reference.

So after about half an hour, repairs at last completed, we continued on our way back to Harrogate via Aldwark toll bridge, stopping for the usual banana break in Great Ouseburn and returning to Knaresborough about 4p.m.

Peter elected to continue a little longer via Wetherby enjoying the improved warm weather. The remaining riders left John E. & myself at Knaresborough and headed for the long climb up to Harrogate.

Total Mileage:- 2 x 45: 5 x 53: 1 x 60 = 415 miles. David W.

2011 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 1458 YTD 43800



