



### Poddlers Ride Report

Glorious weather equalled a high turnout of midweek poddlers who left Hornbeam promptly at 9.30 sweeping up Alison at the other side of the traffic lights to make 16 riders in all. Along Stray Rein, Park Parade, Dragon Road and dismount to cross the footbridge over the railway line. Dennis recalled when the buildings on the north side of the footbridge were stables for the coal-merchants yards. "By heck, them were the days". Down Coppice and across to Jennyfields where, if Dennis rode a horse rather than a bike, it would have taken him automatically to the Hydro for his daily morning dip. Up past the Jennyfields playing fields - a route new to all, including myself as we went up the wrong side of the soccer pitch and off-roaded to get to the other side. Past Pennypot camp and right to avoid the road works. Halfway down the hill towards Hampsthwaite the message came forward that Trevor had a flat tyre. Surjohn heroically did an about turn back up the hill and returned to report that Trevor had decided to call it a day - Hard luck Trevor.

The cafe stop option in Hampsthwaite was forsaken for a banana stop amongst the dandelions at the top of the hill at the Birstwith/Kettlesing junction. The leisurely sweep down to Kettlesing bottom led to the inevitable uphill grind to the Black Bull. Surjohn departed towards home at the Penny Pot Lane junction to chance it through the road works while the remainder carried on up to Little Almscliffe and return via Beckwithshaw. Thanks to Steven for acting as back marker. 22 miles. Dave Griffin

Dave Griffin rediscovers ancient route. The Poddlers were treated to a wonderful new route out of Harrogate today by DG.

Allegedly this route was used by followers of Boudicca to escape from Hornbeamium when being pursued by the Romans. For those wanting to follow in DG's tyre marks take the normal path to the

Colosseum Odeon and onwards. Forsake the Asdanian Way but take the little used pontus over the Asdanian Way to be found after the Rinkus furniture sellers. Follow onwards into the Coppice of Harrogatonium via the old public bath site towards the new settlement of Jennyfields. Keep to the byway and circumvent the new public bathhouse and make for the ascent towards the recently constructed but little known Forum Jennus and Stadium Vastus, best known for pillus bootus. Here can be found a secret way leading to the ancient settlement of Boudicca's sister, Ethelberga. From here it is but a short throw of the discus to the new military training ground of Pennypotus. - well found Dave!  
Max

Click on slide show for all today's photos

#### Wheel Easy Ride Report

With the forecast of a wonderful day ahead, Dave Rowson championed for Wharfedale or Lofthouse via Masham. Lofthouse won and 12 of us set off towards Knox. There it was clear that we could split nicely into two groups, so David led off ahead with Julie, Kerry, William, Ted and Steve in tow. Sandy knowing the "direct" route to Masham led Malcolm, Stewart, Sarah, Gia and Angela. She took us along quite a distance of a byways route after Fountains which was very quiet and took us to Winksley Banks. From there to Kirkby Malzeard, Grewelthorpe and Masham. The views were fabulous and it was a perfect day. There was a market in the square at Masham, which unfortunately seemed very quiet. Maybe everyone was out on their bikes. David, Julie, Ted and William set off for Lofthouse, Stewart, Steve and Kerry returned to Harrogate and after being suitably refreshed, Sandy, Malcolm, Gia, Sarah and Angela started the long climb to Lofthouse past Leighton reservoir. The views were stunning, the sun shone and there was a hint of wind helping us up the hills.

In Pateley we met up with the fast boys and girl who soon departed up Yorke's Folly. Malcolm went in search of a man about a railway line before also tackling the dreaded Folly, and the four girls sped home to Hartwith Toll Bridge, crawled up to Birstwith, raced to Hampsthwaite, went at modest speed up to Knox and in to Harrogate. There after 54 miles Gia raced home to relieve the builder who was house sitting as we had left the back door unlocked! I told him that for a woman of my age to race the last two miles after all those hills today was no mean feat!

Wonderful ride, thanks David for the suggestion and the route and to Sandy too. 1x47, 5x56 miles. Gia

#### Fast pace -Ride Report

Last Wednesday due to inclement weather we were unsuccessful in reaching Masham / Lofthouse so I suggested the route again. I was pleased at the response and we split into 2 groups. The 'magnificent 6' set off first in glorious sunshine to cycle to Lofthouse via Grewelthorpe, Kirkby Malzeard, and Masham. We arrived at Masham at 11.25. Steven, Stewart and Kerry had to be back in Harrogate for 2.00pm and therefore took a direct route home. Julie, William, David and Ted set off from Masham for Lofthouse via Leighton and Roundhill reservoirs and climbed to 430m before descending to Lofthouse. We continued to Pateley Bridge for refreshments.

We all rode home via Yorke's Folly and were treated to magnificent views across Nidderdale. 4x58 2x47 total 324 miles (my average speed 12.5). David  
<http://connect.garmin.com/activity/80380058>

#### EGs Ride Report

There were nine riders at Low Bridge on a brilliant sunny morning.

Bill, Colin, Dave W, John E, John R, Norman, Rod and Terry, plus Dave P who after his Sunday ride thought it safe to venture out.

However he was aware he would not get the same TLC as he had received from SueT and Anne on that particular Sunday. Initially the main topic of conversation was John R`s new Van Nicholas, a nice piece of kit. Usually a new bike means every body gets to have a spin on it, but today the delay was minimal. Dave W was leading the ride to Bedale but not before the obligatory at Spa Gardens Cafe, to sit in the sun, drink coffee, put the world to rights ( I really miss this, its no good being a GOM all by yourself) and take photos. Dave P having the camera. Dave W was then to take four fit riders North, the village of Risplith was mentioned, not only do we have trouble in pronouncing it , but have been

known to miss it altogether or keep continually passing through it. Paul expect a report from Dave W or if like the IXth Legion (Hispana) they vanish in to the mists of the North never to return, them being stuck for an interpreter as the only Caledonian available returned with us to Boroughbridge. A long leisurely break was taken at the top cafe where we met a couple from Wakefield on Bob Jackson bikes (custom made?) .

Then it was the return to Harrogate in the sun. Excellent cycling weather, approx 38 miles x four and that dammed climb out of Knaresborough to Harlow Hill has got steeper over the last month. Dave P

Wheel Easy E.G.'s aimed to head north on Wednesday, joined by our "leader", Dave P, (on his proper bike this time) rapidly making a remarkable recovery following his knee operation just over five weeks ago. A steady pace was set towards Bedale via the Spa Gardens Café at Ripon, trying to temper Dave's enthusiasm to progress at our usual speed too early and risk inhibiting his favourable recovery.

Enquiring on how he was progressing along the way Dave was heard to remark that some discomfort was to be expected. However he appreciated everyone's concern, having missed meeting with the "miserable old git's" (E.G.'s) over the past few weeks and having a good old moan about current affairs, trying to put the world to rights.

After a brief break for drinks & snacks in Ripon, Dave had to go home to lubricate his new knee, Norman needed to return to hold the paint can for Rosemary to decorate the kitchen, Terry wanted to tune his organ, and Rob, getting ready for his trip to America, presumably needed time to pump up his tyres, or some such exercise. (Don't forget to give him your support for his charity ride - "Shelter Box" and log onto his website to monitor his progress).

The remaining five E.G.'s continued on their way to Bedale via Mickley, West Tanfield. Nosterfield, and Snape stopping off at Thorpe Perrow for a quick lunch.

So far the weather had been bright, sunny and quite warm so divesting ourselves of one or two layers we headed through Bedale and turned south towards Carthorpe. Here we took a diversion from the usual route to Wath through Thornborough. On reaching Wath, where we briefly stopped for refreshments, Bill decided it was getting late (3.15pm) and broke away to return on his own through Ripon, presumably fearing that we might run out of light (Sunset - 8.15pm).

Three musketeers + one carried on at a good pace, or so it seemed to me, along the road to Melmerby, cutting across the A1 to Topcliffe via Rainton, sweeping up a lone rider on the way, who seemed to think he was riding somewhere on the continent, by his positioning on the road, predominantly on the right. He joined us for a short while but fearing that riding on the left might compromise his survival, he peeled off to Topcliffe.

We reached Boroughbridge late afternoon, about 4.15pm and after a comfort break, forgoing any further refreshment break (I think most cafes were closed anyway, other than Morrisons), we struck for home the usual route through Minskip and Staveley to Knaresborough. Colin said his farewells at the top of Sandy Bank and John R. continued on his lonely struggle up the hills to Harrogate, whilst lucky John E and myself trundled off home to a well deserved warm bath/shower.

Most seemed to think it a great ride, completed at an unusually high 13mph ave. for E.G.'s that is. We enjoyed wonderful weather, but wondering to ourselves what summer may have in store for us. More of the same or are we destined for a long wet spell???

Total Mileage: (3 x 67) + (4 x 38) + ( 1 x 75) + (1 x 77) = 505miles David Watson

#### 100 Mile 'Taster of Route' Ride Report

Paul, Yvonne and Martin decided to check out the route of the 100 mile ride due to take place on 8th of May. Details of the sunny ride are as follows:

Start at 7.30am.

25 miles stop at Bowe and Co Boroughbridge - 2 Bacon and tomato rolls, one large squidgy cake, 2 cappuccinos, 1 Americano.

49 miles picnic on the village green at Snape - 1 pork and apple tart, 1 sausage and tomato tart, 1 salmon pie by mistake ( Paul said it was good though), 1 large flapjack, 2 large bananas.

58 miles roadside stop - Jelly Babies all round

63 miles stop at Jervaulx Tea Rooms - 2 cheese scones, 1 apricot scone, and 3 pots of tea.

81 miles stop at Ripon, 2 packets of crisps, 2 marmalade sandwiches, 1 lager shandy, 1 orange and

soda, 1 pint of water.

88 miles roadside stop Copgrove - Jelly Beans all round.

92 miles roadside stop Farnham - peanut butter sandwiches and Jelly beans.

All agreed it was a most satisfying ride. Is this the first 100 mile ride where the participants put on half a stone each? Mileage 3 x 100 miles. Martin W

2011 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 1756 YTD 51707



