



### Poddlers Ride Report

With most of team Battenberg away competing in the Criterium Newcastle, as part of their preparations for the Tour de Hampsthwaite, I suggested the very depleted team Wireless hut, go down to Low Bridge to meet the team Movitsar formerly known as the EGs, but luckily Angela Petacchi arrived and got them all under control suggesting a quick time trial round the Peak District or somewhere similar, in order to investigate coffee and cake stops at speed.

Team Hornbeam-Cerpoddle a replacement trainer today in the form of Richard Virenquex Pugh, taking over from Liz Leipheimer, who was persuing her other career as a dancer. Steve Sanchez was our leadout man as we headed towards Little Alms Cliff. Trevor Wiggins, Bradley's talented little brother steamed ahead as El Butler and David Crawford Millar encouraged Suzanne Van de Broeck to get her all weather wet gear on, and we finally reached the summit with domestiques Sue Schlek and downhill champion Caroline Cancellouta, wavong their musettes. . The strict regime of more hills than are good for us continued passed Menwith and down towards Darley. Trainer Richard Virenquex led us down a vertical back alley passed the Darley Memorial Centre pointing out that interesting historical records of Scar House were kept the The peloton attacked the col de Bristwith vigorously, but Grimpeur Maxi Basso had gearing trouble and was over taken by everyone despite Crawford Millar helping with the mechanics. The Domestiques offered sustinance to some of the exhausted cyclists and we zoomed down to Hampsthwaite after an tense photo call with a feverish group of fans trying to get interviews and autographs fromn their idols.

At Hampsthwaite Sophie's cafe was mainly ignored and the posison pilote(lead-out man) Sur Jon O'Grady lead an echappee including Trevor Wiggins, Richard Virenquex, Gordon Bossen Hagen, new comer Robin Gesink homewards, whilst Suzanne Van de Broeck building up her strength for the

Criterion Ripley next week, decided a cake would be good training fodder before she had her lunch, despite Suzy Schlek's trying to dissuade her. The gruppetto including rolleur John Woodstrong, made a leisurely attempt at the summit de Hampsthwaite, but were overtaken at 6 miles an hour by a runner, and then continued on to the Pas de Knox where Maxi Basso had another gear problem and ended up the lantern rouge, despite Caroline Cancellouta calling for a year's supply of cat food from the vet's and El Butler and Crawford Millar rushing off for an early lunch and a session shopping in Asda. Thank you everyone for your lovely leading, back marking, shepherding and bike maintenance. A very hilly, very short 24miles at (so Suzy Schlek tells me) 10.6 miles per hour. Caroline

Click on slide show for all today's photos

#### Wheel Easy Ride Report

6 set off from HP with requests of "...and not too many hills, please!" from more than one of the group. As we made our way along Penny Pot Lane we had the additional carrot of an early break well before we were due to reach Pateley Bridge. However, it was rather like those 'false peaks' one so often encounters up on the fells: "we could take coffee here, or on the other hand, a few miles further on..." our leader would venture, as we neared each stop. This approach enabled us to sail past possible breaks in Low Laithe, Glasshouses, Pateley itself and on past the picturesque Gouthwaite reservoir towards Ramsgill (see photo)... then a final challenge with the 25% climb to Middlesmoor [where in fairness, the hostelry was closed (for lunch?)] before a spot of healthy backtracking plus diversion due to a local downpour into How Stean. At last a break! But it had to be described at least as 'brunch'. The return brought us via Pateley, Birstwith and into Hampsthwaite where we were able to introduce one or two of the group to Sophie's cafe. The cakes proved too much for those who had been salivating at every prospective coffee-stop, and so we fell in behind "two forks" (code-name) for a healthy afternoon-tea. Thanks are due and must go to the leader, Dave, and to Angela and Dave(!) who were selflessly encouraging the 3 H2H riders, Nikki, Chris and Stewart.

#### EG's Ride Report

The weather forecast looked grim, but the morning had a bright start. There was a good turn out at Low Bridge, thirteen riders in fact, but despite the number we all set off for Ripon. Today we welcomed a new rider Theo, who was riding a 26 inch custom designed and built frame and on fixed wheel. The journey north through Farnham and Bishop Monkton was quite pleasant with blue patches amongst dark clouds and a helpful wind. Soon we were at Spa Gardens cafe for the first of our coffee stops where despite a slight threat of rain it was taken outside in the sun. After sustenance, a chat and a team photo, Terry sacrificed himself and left to return to Harrogate, this meant that no rider had to fall on their bicycle pump to reduced the number from an unlucky 13.

The remaining riders, Bill, Bob, Colin, Dave P.Dave W, Eric, James, John E, John R, Norman, Roy, and Theo headed north to Wath in bright sunshine, here there was a little indecision as we studied the weather and would we have time for our second cafe stop. The brave won and it was north again to skirt Kirklington, then south to Skipton on Swale for a banana break and on to Topcliffe. Here the heavens opened, but the rain quickly changed to hail, so it was farewell to Topcliffe and on to Boroughbridge through thunder, lightning and rain to tasty snacks cafe, shelter and hot soup plus some cholesterol. Then it was back to Knaresborough and Harrogate on dry roads with the sun and wind in our faces. arriving between 3-30 and 4pm. Mileage say  $12 \times 51 = 612$  miles ( Theo cycling all the way being on fixed).  $1 \times 34$  miles. Dave P

2011 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 1240 YTD 79331



