



Poddlers Ride Report

The weather was good but cold with sun trying to get out, light clouds but cool and forecast of winds and rain later. With a prompt 9.30 start we set off via Rossett Green, Burn Bridge, Buttersyke Bar, to Kirkby Overblow, a quick count indicated 14 in total. Kev, Caroline and Mrs Kev decided to take a shorter route which then left 11. As we headed on towards Sicklinghall message came through Kevin (not the Kev above) had a puncture, we waited in Sicklinghall for the 3 to catch up. Two arrived and said Kevin was to return home after repairing puncture and not to wait for him. On we went to Wetherby and using the cycle track cut through to Deighton Road avoiding the centre of Wetherby. Through industrial estate to pick up cycle track towards Walshford then turning left towards Little Ribston only to get message Alison had now got a puncture. We were advised not to wait and she was in the capable hands of Dennis and Gordon. Off we set again with one rider leaving at Little Ribston and making his way home via Knaresborough, this now left 6 to ride together back into Harrogate via Spofforth, Higgs Road and Rudding Park. Back about 12.15 and before the weather changed. - Total 14 cyclists say 10 at 25miles and 4 at 10miles. Steven Perry

Extra Comments

As the Poddler's stopped to regroup and discuss tactics in the middle of Leadhall Lane, the Batz, beautifully attired in their pinks and yellows of a Battenburg cake, flashed passed searching for their first coffee stop (which looked as if it was going to be Gia and Malcolm's house). As Kevin had made Jane (on her third wheel easy outing) cycle from Killinghall, he decided to return home after introducing Jane to the delights of Beckwithshaw and Hampsthwaite....I felt I should accompany them to ensure there was no cycling recurrence of their normal cycling violence en route. Arriving back in

Killinghall, the mission accomplished, I abandoned them to return home via my favourite homeward route Hampsthwaite, Menwith and the wonderful downhill from Little Almscliff. 2 x 16 miles and 1 x 24 miles. Caroline G

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Wheel Easy Ride Report

Twelve Wednesday wheeleasy's met at Hornbeam on a day which was a chink in the wild and windy weather of November. Three possible routes were proffered but Martin's seemed to be the most popular so with Martin out front we all followed en mass. Our route took us up the ramp and out of Harrogate via Beckwithshaw. Norwood lane for once had a kindly breeze and we were even casting shadows as we sailed along. A right turn onto Brame Lane took us past Penny Pot, where we lost Chris who shot off with time constraints, and we headed over the A59 to pass alongside Memwith Hill on our way to the Darley Mill café. Today the coffee and cake stop gave us plenty of time to chat prior to our orders being taken, and plenty of time to chat some more whilst awaiting our refreshments and waiting to pay, but, in fairness, the probably yet to be trained seasonal staff were are very friendly. Shortly after leaving Darley we lost Sarah and Sue to a more direct route home and Richard, rumour has it, to a pudding in Pateley, whilst the rest of us continued to pedal after Martin, Brimham Rocks bound. It was a long drag up the hill but we were rewarded with red berries, golden fern, green grass, some blue sky and views that stretched way further than is usually possible on warmer days. Winter cycling can be so beautiful. So, described by Martin as probably the best downhill stretch in Yorkshire, we all swept down through Warsill towards Ripley. We diminished in numbers further by losing our leader and Yvonne and Dave who headed off down Dole Bank towards Markington, in order to add a little more cycling time on to an unusually pleasant winter day. Those of us remaining returned to Harrogate via Knox wondering if we will get another such fine cycling day before the end of the year. Milage 5x34 some a little more, some a little less. Angela

With time constraints, and a new toy (a Garmin) to play with, I decided to do a short solo ride and map WE Route 5 (now at www.wheel-easy.org.uk/route.asp?ID=10) to Knaresborough, Wetherby and Spofforth. In Wetherby I was fortunate to meet up with Kevin D, also solo by choice after a puncture. We cycled back together along the Harland Way and into Harrogate. 22 miles for him, 20 for me. Malcolm

EG's Ride Report

Arriving at Low Bridge, Knaresborough, later than usual I was intrigued to note that 9 intrepid cyclists were milling around with a lost look on their faces. What no Dave Preston, no leader. What do we do? Before a consensus was reached we were joined by Terry and Colin who pushing his bicycle (his new "Genisis") reporting the second of two punctures he had suffered. Bill Whale pitched in to assist in the repair but our usual prompt start of 10.am was significantly delayed. Completing the repair Bill decided to lead the ride and guide us on our way in an anticlockwise direction to Easingwold. The ride, comprising 12 members, started at a steady pace, in sunshine but slightly cold air. Arriving at Easingwold just after noon we headed for "Temptation" cafe for a leisurely lunch. We headed off back on our return journey at about 1.30pm into a cold wind continuing at an acceptable pace to reach Boroughbridge within the hour. Here there was divided opinions as to whether to stop or not. Norman needed his "Bakewell" fix & Terry needed to take a breather. The rest split into two groups, five heading the usual way to Knaresborough, the remaining choosing to return via Roelcliffe & Bishop Monkton. All in all a pleasant ride hopefully enjoyed by all. Total milage - 9 x 48 + 3 x 42 = 558 miles. Dave W

Long Ride Report from 27th November 2011

Six brave souls set off from Hornbeam Park to tackle Lofthouse in the extremely windy conditions. The group set off to Ripon via Knaresborough and Bishop Monkton. All was going well until we escaped the protection of the buildings and terrain around Ripon. Once we were heading for Galphay the wind became a problem and we knew we were in for trouble when we had to cycle down all the hills. The

weather forecast stated that the winds would abate during the morning. Unfortunately, nobody had told the wind this was how it should behave. We eventually made our way to Masham and stopped for refreshments. On leaving Masham the group naturally divided between those with mountain goat ancestry and the others. The climb over Lofthouse was a mixture of brilliant sun shine accompanied by huge gusts of wind. The group reformed at Lofthouse village, with the exception of Phil who headed back to Harrogate, and then it was off to Pateley for tea and cakes. Given the arduous conditions experienced by all riders it was agreed that we would return to Harrogate via Glasshouses and the main road. Well done to all those who took part in this strenuous ride. Total Mileage $6 \times 58 = 348$
Peter J

2011 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 1298 YTD 165817

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