



#### Poddlers Ride Report

Steve was indisposed and unable to fulfil the onerous task of designated ride leader whilst her indoors who likes to be outdoors was partaking of her second favourite hobby, being on a train, and couldn't oversee her brood. Miraculously the headless brood managed to hatch a plan, a decision making process during which Glyn found that his single transferable vote was worthless. We would accompany Kev and Jane (lest there should be a third accident) to Pennypot roundabout and then the remaining 9 would continue up to and through the former HMS Forest Moor. Pennypot road signs indicating road closed were ignored, halfway along Gordon punctured and the first signs of snow arrived. The ensuing blizzard conditions caused a huddled rethink behind a small mound of earth and the unanimous decision to divert via Menwith and Hampsthwaite was rapidly made before exposure took its toll. Such was the strength of the wind that the uphill section to Menwith appeared to be downhill. A lorry trying to beat the temporary traffic lights gave most of us minor heart attacks as it sped towards us at "one hell of a speed". The driver must have been mad! A serene and silent swoop brought us cold, wet and bedraggled to Hampsthwaite and Sophie's. The token, much ridiculed Poddler's gesture of "anyone for coffee" brought the surprise response of "yes I do" from one who must be described as a rehabilitating offcumden. Whilst the rest of the group made their ways home to the warmth I felt it my duty to accompany Sue for a coffee before returning home. Well done to Jane who made it up the "big hill" without getting off. 2 x 12 and 9 x 23miles for the Captain's log. Well done équipiers. Max

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### Wheel Easy Ride Report

The Poddlers have certainly got things organised. Ride leaders someone to write the report and this week they even submitted to a coffee stop. Excellent news! Maybe they had an influential interloper with them?? Meanwhile the Wednesday rabble, can't decide where to go, when to leave and certainly no one is keen to write the ride report. Oh well. Enough negativity, the fact is that 9 hardy souls set off to Hampsthwaite, passed up the opportunity to languish at Sophie's at the early hour of 10.15 and hacked onwards to Fountains, by this time it was raining, snowing, and the bottom café was closed. We found shelter in the Visitor Centre for hot drinks and food. Left in the sleet Martin and Yvonne ended up at Spa Gardens. After refreshments we headed for home arriving in Harrogate in pouring rain, and sleet. Miserable? Nooooooooooooooooooooo this is Wheel Easy! 9 x 36 miles Gia

### EG's Ride Report

The forecast was good and the sun was shining and we had eleven EG`s at Low Bridge, enough for a cricket team. Colin P had declined to ride today because of icy conditions and was going for a swim, this is not acceptable Colin, you know we would have waited for you while you had a swim in the Nidd or Ouse. James also sent a (lengthy) apology to Eric. The first objective was to get a hot drink inside us, so it was on Abbey Road, with a short stop to view the new wood sculptures, then on to Wetherby via Little Ribston and Kirk Deighton the group as usual splitting into smaller groups for this road., in sunshine but into the wind. Then in to Morrisons Cafe, where their shares immediately climbed. After sustenance it was decided to head north in the sun with the wind on our backs, however all had changed with grey skies and a fickle wind. Up the A168 cycle path to where Bob left us to return home via Little Ribston, the remaining ten, Bill, Dave P, Dave W, Eric, John E, John R, Norman, Peter B, Peter J and Theo heading for Hunsingore where it was on with wet weather gear resulting in some comments. Dave W suggested a slight deviation which turned to be very good, once we had learnt the difference between Kirk Deighton and Kirk Hammerton and also Thorpe Perow and Thorpe Underwood and it did miss out Whixley Hill. At Great Ouseburn Dave Deviation took us to Branton Green then Marton and Grafton then Boroughbridge. Here the EG`s individuality came into play, Bill went home, Dave P and Theo followed by Eric and John R went via Grafton only, Norman and Peter B via the B6265, PB getting to Tasty Snacks for his cocoa first. Only Dave W, Peter J and John E doing the full deviation. The Cafe was warm, the food was hot and Norman videoed Sonia saying nice things to him.(quite an achievement). There was a distinct reluctance to leave the warm cosy cafe but away we went, Peter J playing a blinder by pushing the headwind for the pelaton all the way to Farnham. Then on to Knareborough and Harrogate. Crossing the Stray Eric and Dave P met Charles (Menwith Hill) who we had not seen for a while , he had been recovering from two operations and was heading to the hospital for a check up, and hoped to be cycling with us in January, he offered and Eric took £s;3 off him. On behalf of Wheel Easy we wish him a speedy recovery, with a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Mileage 9 x say 45 miles = 405 miles. 1 x say 40 miles = 40 miles. 1 x 30 miles = 30 miles. A good winters ride with lots of laughs so if we can laugh in these conditions we are obviously mad. Dave P

2011 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 1030 YTD 169202



