



### Boxing Day Ride

There was a grand total of 7 riders at Hornbeam on Boxing Day, Darren, Mark and Steve who were about to speed off in their chosen direction and 4 more who consisted of John, Phil, Sally and myself. The direction of the ride was based on which coffee shops may be open so off we went in the general direction of Ripon, Low Bridge, Farnham up the hill and turn left, when we got to the junction where you turn right for Bishop Monkton John left us due to the fact he had domestic commitments to entertain family members. Although not really noticeable in Harrogate the wind was quite blustery but progress towards Bishop Monkton was aided by a tailwind which obviously wouldn't last. We took the scenic route to Ripon through Littlethorpe and then up past the cathedral in Ripon which was flanked by blue skies and looked fantastic. Cafe Nero was open so we sat and put the world to rights in 10 minutes. When we came out of Cafe Nero we tried to plan a route that did not involve headwinds but came to the conclusion that was not going to happen so we set off towards Boroughbridge. Phil was using the ride as a spin exercise by doing the whole ride in as lower gear as he possibly could. When we reached Boroughbridge there was no option but to ride into a headwind but we had done quite well at avoiding it so far we came through Roecliffe and the resident drunken couple were at the pub and dressed in Santa hats. I stopped at the end of the bridlepath with the intention of going along it but Phil said that it was the wrong one. I was so convinced it was the right one that I told Phil if I was wrong he could have my bike. Luckily I was right so I still had transport for the return journey. Just after Copgrove Sally decided that she needed to ride further and turned right to start her second lap but soon realized she had gone wrong. It was then back through Knaresborough and up Harrogate hill where I managed to keep up with Phil. I was impressed with that and it was like another Christmas present. Sally chose not to race us up Harrogate hill and rode up at a more sensible pace. A good ride

for Boxing day not too tasking and at a decent pace with temperatures of about 12 degrees plus sunshine and good company, a distance of about 35 miles. Many thanks to Sally and Phil for their company, Terry

### Wednesday Rides

#### Poddlers Ride Report

Its behind you, oh no it isn't, oh yes it is..... oh yes it was ...a large black full of wind and rain cloud was peaking over the trees at Hornbeam. This did not deter the troupe of pantomime performers, who were raring to be led on their dramatic tour of the hills and villages to the north westish of Harrogate. We had lovely Anne, the principal boy, making a second guest appearance fresh from her clever research into something incomprehensible, we had three beautiful princesses of varying shapes and sizes or as Trevor (the scheming wicked great great grandfather and Santa's doll's house building elf, gnome, sprite or imp), insisted two princesses and the very evil fairy.....we had a whole array of dames, thank you Steve, Dave and Sur John. Paul B, lent to us by the Killinghall players filled the role of the confused.(confused because he does not usually come out to play on a Wednesday) but kindly father of the badly done to, beautiful princesses and a chatty, cheerful Glyn Buttons, who prompted and reminded, when they forgot, the slower members of the cast that they were meant to be cycling. Thankfully we left the one that makes silly jokes and leads community horrid song singing at home playing building Meccano buggies, puppets and hide and seek. The performance lasted two and a half hours, followed the Knox, Killinghall, Ripley route up the hill, with a following wind, to the Drovers, where a script alteration was agreed and performed without rehearsal, as we swash buckled our way through the first half to Markington and Burton Leonard for an interval break of cherry liqueur chocolates. The second half continued at a brisk pace into a head wind and rain as the big black cloud entered the stage. We frolicked over the Wicked Barron Mount Garrett's estate, via the scary Troll's bridge, which crossed the golden Stream of Good Luck and Happy Endings back to the A61 and Ripley and Killinghall, not, however, before the wickedly cunning Dame Steve had kidnapped our principal boy and whisked her back to the sin city that is Knaresborough. At least twenty four very large lorries and a National Express Bus tried to throw us off the stage as our performance reached a resolution in Killinghall, and another one of the Dames was lost, as was the kindly confused old king as he headed for a Garden Centre, under the impression he would find plants for his winter beds. The rest of the cast received rapturous applause as the curtain came down, on our return to Harrogate. 23 miles of very fresh air and lots of wind by a very jolly company of players. Caroline G

Click on slide show for all today's photos

#### Wheel Easy Ride Report

After a brief discussion nine riders decided to head to our favourite café in Otley. Three riders led by Dave decided to leave us and head to Otley via 'The Hills'. The wind was against us as we rode up Brackenthwaite Lane to North Rigton and Leathley. Unfortunately Café Café was closed so we went to the café opposite. This proved a good choice and it give me an opportunity to collect a few more membership subs. To date 170 members have renewed.

After refreshments we had a look around Chevin Cycles before heading back via Pool, Castley, Weeton and Kirkby Overblow. The following will give you a clue what I got for Christmas!

Distance: 27.77 mi, Time: 2:59:49, Avg Speed: 9.3 mph, Elevation Gain: 2,142 ft, Avg Moving Speed: 10.6 mph. Max Speed: 32.4 mph

#### EG's Ride Report

The weather forecast said 9.00am. sun, 12 noon cloud and 3.00pm rain, quite accurate but the wind, well inconsiderate at times. Peter B down with a heavy cold, and Bill still in the south of England plus the effects of Christmas we were a bit down on numbers, however 7 riders gathered at Low Bridge. One new rider Alastair a friend of Colin P and another sailor (jokes containing the word hello out of the way) it could be seen he was on a vintage Peugeot with Weinman brakes, Dave P, Dave W, Eric, Glyn, John E and Peter J. Due to the wind direction and last week's southern route it was decided to head

north to Ripon, but the Spa Gardens cafe is closed ! That left the supermarket cafe or the Warehouse, the Warehouse, the What house ? said some of the aurally dyslexic EG`s. No matter we were on our way north, at Farnham Eric called for a freewheel challenge to Occaney, this looked to be going John E`s way till Dave W and the Kinesis factor took the points. Eric called for a rematch but there were no takers to go back up the hill. After Bishop Monkton it was Ripon, there was a new cafe called the Bistro, let`s try it out. In went DP, table for seven said he, turning round realised he was the only one, the others seeing the soup price shot off to the Warehouse. After sustenance it was north to Wath, the wind being for once consistent, Melmerby and Baldersby St James a tail wind, Topcliffe to Thornton Bridge side wind, and to Boroghbridge mostly head wind. Here we had heroes who pushed the wind for the group and deserve to be mentioned in dispatches, however the only person who will be mentioned will be Dave P, who gratefully hung on to the Lanterne Rouge position. Glyn does not often ride with us, due to being in full time employment, however the last ride he did with us was this route, so for him it was Ground Hog Day again. Sorry Glyn. Minor probs in Tasty Snacks Café, Sonia sunning herself in Luxor had forgot essential supplies, eg bacon, sausages etc. Customers were being turned away, but not us. The cafe was closed, the blinds pulled down, and the ladies proceeded to cook for us with what they had. So it was scrambled eggs, toasted cheese and lashings of chips. Being locked in a cafe came a close second to being locked in a pub. We arrived at 1.15pm and left at 2.15pm well fed and toasty warm wishing the lovely ladies a happy new year. Then into the cruel wind which now seemed less cruel. Another good winter ride and quite dry as well. Total mileage 7x 47 miles approx = 329 miles. Happy New Year. Dave P

2011 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 1208 YTD 172669



