

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Wednesday Rides



Poddlers Ride Report

After being delayed due to a puncture I joined the Poddlers at Rudding Park. Dennis led a group of nine to Follifoot, Spofforth, Little Ribston, Knaresborough, Scriven, Scotton, Brearton, Ripley and home. It was a lovely 25 mile ride and apart from around Brearton the roads were fine. Thanks Dennis but what happened to the coffee stop? Paul

EG's Ride Report

Following the very low overnight temperatures reported as -12degs C it was doubtful if anyone would brave the cold on a cycle ride today. Dave P, E.G's usual pathfinder had sent a sick note, suffering from the dreaded "lurgy", some sort of flu/cold. (Hope you get better soon Dave). A check on Tues. by Dave W. showed that Abbey Road was partially covered in ice and unrideable so an alternative route to even approach Low Bridge was sought. On arrival, surprisingly, two intrepid riders had already gathered, Norman & Rob and within a short time were joined by Eric, John R, Bob & Peter J.(wrapped up for the Arctic).

We decided to head north to Ripon, climbing up Briggate, the steep hill leading up to Gracious St. and leaving Knaresborough along Boroughbridge Road. Once a minor technical problem with Dave W's bike had been overcome, (jumping chain) we headed to Ripon negotiating around various roadworks and closed roads on the way. John R. decided, once again to leave us fearing the potentially icy road surfaces and headed off on his own for coffee in Boroughbridge. The remaining six riders continuing towards Ripon. Detouring around Littlethorpe & again re-routing because of even more roadworks, we entered Ripon via the bottom road around the back of the Minster. Bob had suggested an alternative cafe stop, which turned out to be up Allhallowgate behind the old Work -House,(now a museum) as was. Yet again more roadworks but we skillfully negotiated our way around the diggers and onwards to be guided to "Tiffins" the cafe tucked away behind Ripon Community meeting place. Plenty of space for bikes, good service and hot drinks + teacakes. Did we really have to venture out further to face the cold wind in our face? After some gentle encouragement we continued our journey, heading this time for Boroughbridge but the long way round meandering around Sharow. Copt-Hewick, passing more brave cyclists, and on via Marton-Le-Moor towards our goal, yet another cafe stop. Unfortunately Rob had left his orange "bib" at Tiffins so after explaining a short cut to him he headed off alone to recover his property. Eric, or should we call him David Bailey, suggested a photo stop before going much further so halting above the A1(M) he contrived to set up an atmospheric photograph, avoiding dropping his camera onto the traffic below and the riders being run over by passing white-van man. Following the road adjacent to Dishforth airfield (AAC) we then turned south into the icy wind towards Tasty Snacks and yet another hot drink. As expected Rob had beaten us to the cafe and got his order already in. Huge portions of Victoria sponge cake seemed to be the food of choice. What he had missed was the new toasted teacake tree recently planted around the back of the cafe. Yet another contrived photo which Sonia found highly amusing! Six E.G.'s headed off home the usual route through Minskip and Staveley no doubt looking forward to another warm drink and a hot shower. Despite the cold, with a little sunshine on the way home I think we all felt it had been worth turning out for the ride, which for those from Harrogate concluded around 3.30pm after covering approximately 40 miles. Dave Watson.

Wheel Easy Walk

Minus 12 degrees C, hypothermia or is it hypothermia for the elderly, frost, snow and goodness knows what else had been threatened. In the event not much of that materialised, but it was minus 3 degrees C in the back garden and our road must have been the only one in Harrogate that was an ice

sheet. So I decided to walk, not my favourite option but better than skidding on an ice patch. Leaving Max in chrysalis form waiting to emerge from his bed a beautiful butterfly, I set off across the Stray to Hornbeam to find most of the poddlers' and hard Bantz lady Sue C. ready to cycle. After an evidential photo call and feeling decidedly whimpy, 5 Poddlers set off on foot up towards Ashville, (leaving the hardy Torville and Deans, who were capable of dancing on ice, to spin off across the ice, very fast and quite far away), to pick Sue and George up en route. Geraldine leading the way must have been travelling at least 8 miles per hour and by Pannal Ash some of us were ready for coffee.....Not quite in the Poddler spirit. We flashed stoically along a footpath to Lady Lane and onwards to Cardale Park and Harlow Carr with all its temptations. The views along the edge of the Pinewoods path were stunning and as we dropped back into Harrogate, the Valley Gardens Cafe was a very welcome sight even to 7 seasoned Poddlers. After a good chat and some interesting coffee we managed to set off in the right direction for Hornbeam and home. No frost bite or anything of that sort to report. The ice dancers hopefully had as jolly an incident free time as us. 6 gentle miles taken at speed with good company... and all home well before lunch....thank you. Caroline G



