

Wednesday, April 11, 2012

## **Wednesday Rides**



### **Poddlers Ride Report**

Hornbeam, Leadhall Lane, Rossett Drive, Green Lane,Whinney Lane, Lady Lane, Howgill Lane, Otley Rd, Beckwithshaw, Right to Pot Bank, Left into Penny Pot Lane, Right Burley Bank Road, cross Skipton Rd, Rowden Lane, Right into Weston Lane, Left into Hampsthwaite, Right to Clapham Gate, High Birstwith, Menwith Hill, Left, cross Skipton Road, Left to Little Almscliffe, Left to Beckwithshaw, Right into Otley Road, any route to Hornbeam or elsewhere. 25 miles.

Welcome to new rider, Jim, who had been extremely concerned about his cycling ability. Having watched him scale the hairpin exit from Hornbeam, it was quite clear that this was no novice and this proved to be the case. In total eight of us did a good pace to Hampsthwaite, stopping only briefly for a swig of whatever individual bottles, bags and panniers contained. The pace for some ie me was somewhat slower as we ascended the road to Clapham Gate where Three Wise Men had parked their bikes. Wordsworth would have revelled in hyperbolic onomatopoeia as he beheld a host of golden daffodils surrounding the seated Surge-on, Dave and Steve. The view was quite

magnificent and all was well with the world and then I realised that somewhere amongst this bucolic trance, I had developed a flat front tyre! Surge asked if I could sort it and naturally I said "Yes" having had some experience of this but had to add that it could take three days at which point, he upended the machine and her panniers and removed the offender which was passed to Max and Steve for scrutiny. The cause was a hole beside the valve - ie age. Jim was particularly pleased with the delay (NOT for a rest) but to take some beautiful photos of gambolling and frolicking lambs and dams. Liz kindly photographed the rescue and Surge-on had the wheel back on in no time. By the time we had reached the summit near High Birstwith, the sun had disappeared and we endured a hailstorm and then more sunshine. All good fun and we shot to Little Almscliffe - en route we were overtaken by three cyclists in training for something very fast - could be the O G's? They were timing themselves very carefully and turned round at the top just as some of us were puffing to the main ascent. Caroline discovered two men in combat gear standing in the layby with tripods and cameras pointing at Menwith Hill!! In a manner resembling Alec Guinness, she asked their business - "twitchers", they said. What?? And so to the delights of Otley Road where a Poddlers' Parting took place. Dave was last seen heading to Harlow Carr. Liz and Steve steered toward and Max and Caroline showed Jim his route home - and he's joining us again soon! Thank you Rescue Team, Photographers and Lovable Lambs - a happy ride. Sue D

### Wheel Easy Ride Report

With varied reports of the weather later in the day it was decided that a shorter hillier ride was in order with the destination being decided by the quality of coffee stop at Cockpit Farm. A larger than usual number set off via the Squinting Cat to Beckwithshaw and on to Timble where the group gathered for the assault on the hills to Timble where the coffee morning at the Robinson Library was rejected due to not enough miles being covered. With a swoop down to Low Snowdon the group began the long climb to the main road with Gordon, in fine climbing form, taking the honours by reaching the top first and then listening to everyone else puffing and panting as they arrived. There followed a long sweeping ride downhill to Askwith and the eagerly anticipated coffee stop. Gordon and Alison rode on -obviously having looked at the advancing weather - and probably avoided most of the rain and hail that arrived later. After suitable refreshments the group emerged into the open to see a band of rain arrive and also a few red faces (Sue and Kevin) as they were not totally prepared for bad weather. After a quick discussion it was decided to take the quickest route home (which was also the hilliest!) and we set off in a downpour back to base. The rain and hail forced Martin to put on his rain pants (an interesting experience to watch!) as we detoured

through the housing estate and a climb up to Farnley. A short photo stop and then we began the climbing phase with two long climbs which eventually brought us out on the Otley Road. Sarah then departed on a quicker route home and the rest tackled the shorter climb before turning into Brackenthwaite Lane and a steady ride down into Pannal and a final stop at the Black Swan- not for refreshments but for a final chat and preparations for the Reliability ride on Sunday so the efforts of today certainly hadn't put anyone off. With Malcolm muttering 'just one last short climb...' we set off back into Harrogate where everyone split off at their appropriate point after a good ride. 30 miles and about 1500' of climbing (it seemed more!) with good banter and company all the way round it made all the effort worthwhile.  
Kevin

With sunshine and blue sky we could not resist a visit to Wharfedale. Richard, Peter and David set off for Timble then Askwith, Ilkley and Bolton Abbey. We had avoided the rain up to this point so it was a sprint to Burnsall to shelter as the rain had caught up with us. A good excuse to have a break, enjoy a warm drink and snack. We returned home via Stump Cross Caverns and Greenhow avoiding the rain. We were treated to spectacular views of rain clouds in the distance mixed with sunshine on the hills. A very enjoyable ride.  
59 miles David

### EG's Ride Report

Not a bad start to the day though rain had been forecast for 1-00pm. On the way down to Low Bridge Sue D was met and wished a good days Poddling who replied with wishing us a good days EGing (an Easter pun or bun?). As we waited for numbers to build up we were approached by a Lady who asked if we were Wheel Easy (she had read our web site) yes was the reply we are the pensioners section. From her questions on rides and what she was looking for it would seem she was a Poddler in the making so she was advised to head for Hookstone car park (whenever) and ask for Caroline G/ Sue D. The Lady also said she would send her husband to Low Bridge. York was the chosen destination so the twelve headed on Abbey Road where Bob broke a chain and the pelaton came to a halt, but quick as a flash Norman had his chain tool in his hand, he has the fastest draw in the west (of Knaresborough). Soon we were all on our way, but this does beg the question "does Paul T carry a spare toothed belt?". After Arkendale it was in to the cafe on the old A1 now the A168 where twelve riders would not cause "cafe shock". After sustenance and a team photo, Bob, John R and Roy headed for Boroughbridge ( lets hope they did not visit Tasty Snacks and the fair Sonia or it could be pistols at dawn with some other EG`s). The remaining nine then headed for Grafton and Lower Dunsforth where the road closure seems

to be causing problems for Way of the Roses riders. On to Great Ouseburn where Norman and Terry left us, the remaining seven, Bill, Dave P, Dave W, Eric, John E, Marvin and Peter J headed over Aldwark Bridge to Beningborough and the Route 65 cycle route/path in to York and Dickinsons cafe near Cliffords Tower. Over soup and sandwiches Bill regaled us with stories from Bill Whales schooldays such as rugby in the school library and a booby trapped door for the head girl only to catch the head master (perhaps they did not know the difference between girl and master, sex education being very limited in those far off days). A team photo at the Millennium Bridge and a banana break at Askham Richard then on to Cowthorpe. This distance was done at quite a pace, into the wind , the pelaton in single file with heroes taking turns to push the wind at the front, this according to Eric`s high tech handlebars was done at a mind boggling 19.3mph (no wonder DP though Harlow Hill had increased in height. The magnificent seven then split up at Little Ribston, three riders to Knaresborough and four to the heights of Harrogate. Despite threatening clouds on the horizon it never rained on our parade, max distance around 62 miles, good training for John E`s reliability ride, if a couple of the older EG`s can recover by Sunday. Dave P



