

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Wednesday Rides



Poddlers Ride Report

A general meeting of the five assembled Poddlers decided on an easy route to the Boroughbridge area.

The route consisted of passing greetings to the EGs at Low Bridge then along Abbey Rd, to Chain Lane and the quiet route past Hay a Park and Bar Lane to Farnham and then Minskip. At Minskip a light shower called for a short break to don waterproofs and then continue towards Aldborough where the rain really came down so a change of route towards Grafton and home via Arkendale, Ferrensby and Sandy Bank to Knaresborough. 5 Poddlers 28miles. John W

Wheel Easy Ride Report

Several of us out for a morning ride today so we set off for Sophie's extending the route slightly by adding in Darley. Welcome back to Paul from his Canadian adventure, to John Wh recently retired and some recruits from the Poddlers. The rain came down steadily as we descended in to Darley but on climbing in to Clapham Green the sun came out, time for a picture and a

nice run down to Sophie's. There we came upon an indulgent group including two Poddlers who were out with ladies who coffee and lunch!
Home in the sunshine, a nice run out and excellent café stop. Gia

Long Ride Report

Wot! No hills?

Richard led out two others, Peter C and Terry S, for a long ride today.

Fancying a break from the hilly stuff, Richard mentioned Barwick as an intermediate objective. From that slenderest notion the route evolved in an informal way. Enjoyable, but not always making sense on the map.

We spent the day on the flat lands to the east of Harrogate and Leeds, hopping from village to village and taking in a total of 25, plus Garforth and Tadcaster.

Where to stop? We reckoned that the honeypots like Lotherton would be best avoided in half term. This took us to a ride-past survey of Garforth's cafes, where Claire's Cafe proved to be well worth the visit and the money, with traditional cyclists' fare on offer plus friendly use of "darling" by the attentive staff.

The map came out again - no need really, as Peter knew the ground from his previous residence in Micklefield, which we duly cycled past on our way to Sherburn. While negotiating a roundabout there, Terry starred in a Laurel and Hardy scene involving a domino-style fall from his stationary bike at a pavement crossing, taking Richard with him. All of this greatly amused the cyclist waiting behind and embarrassed Terry, who had been unable to free his foot from the toe clip in time. Not the first time, either. Must look at SPDs again.

Richard took us on an exploratory route through Grimston Park - really a private road, providing access for residential and commercial lettings on the estate but a quiet scenic route reducing the slog along the main roads into Tadcaster.

More village hopping took us through another Angram, also with a dam.

Apparently angram means grazing lands. There are several in Yorkshire, including of course the one at the head of Nidderdale. Is there a possible ride theme here - Angram to Angram via Angram? Like collecting Munros, perhaps?

After a ride-past of Peter's new house in Boston Spa, afternoon tea was taken in the Garden Centre Cafe at Thorp Arch Retail Park - aren't those fish in pond huge?

Returning to Harrogate via a loop through Long Marston and Tockwith, there was time to take in a reflective stop at the Marston Moor battle memorial.

Our last village was Follifoot after which we braved the dark dank tunnel, "carpeted" in mud and manure. I can see why it's not a popular route with many, especially on narrow tyres.

Our lone picture shows Peter and Terry keeping strange company in Scarcroft early in the day..

Total distance: a staggering 80 miles. Who needs hills! Terry S

EG's Ride Report

A cloudy day with an "iffy" forecast as the EG`s began to gather at Low Bridge. A quick "good morning" with the Poddlers who were then soon on their way. Our numbers gradually built up til we had enough for a cricket team, after Eric`s dales classic on Monday it was decided to head for the flat lands of Yorkshire, so the eleven headed for York Absentees including Bill (sending wife on holiday), John R (acting as a tour guide for guests) and Roy (who had brought a bug back from Derbyshire) what else ?. Then Arkendale and Angela`s cafe to cause panic because she was short on teacakes for toasting. Here Rob bought two small pot ducks (see photo). The story is, in Tasty Snacks toilets there is a collection of pot ducks. It was in one of said toilets Rob managed to break a duck ??, somewhat upsetting the fair Sonia.

Norman was given the task of smuggling same small pot ducks into the toilet unbeknown to Sonia in the vain hope she would think one of her pot ducks had laid two pot eggs and they had hatched. Here luck was with us as it rained hard while we were in the cafe and stopped when we came out. Just outside the cafe the EG`s were photographed with a dog (see photo). This photo was dedicated to all those cyclists who told their other halves, they were taking the dog for a walk, locked the dog in the bike shed and then sneaked out on their bikes. At Lower Dunsforth Norman headed for Boroughbridge and his undercover duck delivery. At Aldwark Bridge John E left us to head home and a medical appointment (hope it's nothing serious John just the normal madness associated with being an EG). Into York via route 65 and Dickinson`s cafe opposite Cliffords Tower, here some inconsiderate body parking in the cafe meant six EG`s headed for Tesco`s cafe, leaving Dave P , Dave S and Marvin to sit with some charming elderly Scots ladies who forcefully expressed their displeasure with a certain Mr Salmon. Again the weather gods were with us as it rained while we were in the cafe and stopped when we emerged. Then it was on to Tesco`s to meet the rest, a phone call between Eric and DP suggested a meet at the Askham end of the cycle path. As the wait extended a phone call was made to Eric to enquire if the delay was caused by Peter B being on his third pudding and custard, no said Eric I can't get them out of the toilets you carry on and we will catch you up on the road. "Catch us up" Ha ! said Dave S, "Oh dear" said Dave P who could see it coming.

It was a steady pace to Askham Richard and a short drink stop, then the pace upped with Dave S and Marvin taking turns on the front and pushing the pace and wind, with Dave P desperately hanging on to their rear wheels and praying to the patron saint of knackered cyclists St Gaspus. Soon we were in Knaresborough and it was only 4.00pm, how could that be? Look forward to hearing from Eric.

A good days cycling approx 61 miles and it didn't rain on our parade.

Dave P



