

Wednesday, August 8, 2012

## Wednesday Rides



### Short Ride Report

A glorious 15 mile gallivant with Gia! There was a slight departure from the usual Poddler regime of 25/30 miles with two leaders taking different paces. Dave was the appointed leader for today but Gia had suggested that she lead a 15 mile ride to accommodate new riders for whom a greater distance might be daunting, for those wishing to be back by 12.30pm and for those, like me who hadn't been out for a while and who needed a gentle return to action! This worked perfectly and gave the opportunity to meet new faces - Sue, Charlotte and Lauren (mother and daughter), Janet, Ruth, Ian and Pam. It was lovely to see Lynda after her long absence. In glorious sunshine, we headed to Beckwithshaw and down Pot Bank and then up to Penny Pot Lane. These so called "new riders" set a cracking pace - no 15-ers again for them!! After the descent to Hampsthwaite, we gathered in the garden at Sophie's and enjoyed drinks and skons (!! ) in the sunshine. What a life! Gia gave Liz and me the opportunity to explain the history and rudiments of "poddling" from the days of 3 "Plodders" and about 5 miles of guts, determination and exhaustion to the reformed letters, up to 20 riders and conquests of up to 40

miles with hills! There will always be a ride to suit all. Given that some of the roads we used were quite busy, Gia explained the underlying Wheel Easy philosophy of looking after fellow riders but that it must be remembered that in terms of personal safety, each person must assume responsibility for his/her self-preservation. This applies especially at busy junctions when the group has to split accordingly. Following our leader, we returned via Knox Mill Lane to the cycle path at Bilton where, Oh joy of joys, clad in his Wheel Easy top was none other than Sir Chris Hoy disguised as Crawford. Photographic evidence will support this wonderful encounter. It was then upward and onward to meet our deadline. Thank you, Gia. Sue D.

### 'No longer Poddlers' Ride Report

It's that rare thing, a warm dry summer day. Too rare in fact to be inside writing a ride report, so...11 poddler's left Hornbeam in the sunshine. Outside the Odeon we collected Joe, who had returned to change his bike due to a cronky crank, making 12 wending their way via Luchon Way and Jennyfields sports fields to Penny Pot Lane. Right onto the Otley Road, left down to Bedlam Bridge and up to the A59. The few hundred yards of busy main road were covered by all in a manner that would have passed cycling proficiency tests. Forward to the end of Meagill Lane where we briefly enjoyed the views into the distance across the moors before returning east along Menwith Hill Road. At the junction with Stack Lane just after Menwith Station we had separated into 2 groups, the first surging past the junction, the second following Steven on the planned route, right at the junction and left at Staupes Road. We all re-united at Staupes a few minutes later and continued to Longscales to admire the view and have a photo call / banana break. At Hampsthwaite 7 poddlers opted to call in at Sophie's Cafe and the remaining 5 continued on their way to Harrogate. Thank you to Steven for co-leading / sweeping. 12 x 27 miles. Dave Griffin

### Wheel Easy Ride Report

What a day, what a ride! Six of us in the sunshine to Ripon (lost David Richard), Galphay, Grewelthorpe, Over the moors, Swinton, (found David), Masham for lunch in the sunshine and back to Snape. From this point it is easier to list the excitement -

1. Snape Castle Church for a history lesson on Katherine Parr (Henry 8th last wife - who didn't get her head cut off).
2. Botany lesson from Colin in the ruins of the castle showing us the the "Ivy Leafed Toadflax" growing out of the old walls - odd name for a beautiful delicate flowering plant.
3. Memorial in Snape to a Lady whose friends are grateful she popped her clogs!

4. A visit to the Thornborough Henge - an ancient monument. Not quite up to Stonehenge but far less crowds and plenty of places to nip behind the hedge for natural breaks.

5. A spectacular air stunt display near Burton Leonard. We have no idea what the pilot was doing but he/she was certainly no amateur with more loops, rolls, stalls, dives and stunts than we could count.

It doesn't get much better than this. 64 miles in fantastic weather. Martin W

#### The Coffee Group Ride Report

How did I miss Martin's group leaving for Masham? However, having recently ridden to Ripon I didn't fancy chasing after them. Luckily Malcolm and Angela also missed their departure so we decided on 'Coffee in Easingwold at TeaHee'. After coffee we decided to have lunch in York. So we headed for Stillington, Huby, Sutton in the Forest and Haxby where Angela called in to see past working colleagues. This was a good move as they recommended a good café. We then headed home via Skelton, Beningbrough, Newton on Ouse, Aldwark Bridge, Great Ouseburn, 66 miles at an average speed of 12.5.  
Paul

#### EG's Ride Report

The weather forecast looked good. However things started to go pear shaped when no Wipperman Conex 10speed link for Cannondale could be found in anywhere Harrogate. No probs use Ribble winter bike fresh from its major "summer" overhaul and in good order?. Cassette clean and not badly worn, however at Low Bridge a couple of worn teeth (previously missed ) caused problems for DP. Solution EG`s to head for DP`s house with DP and bike in Dave S`s pick up truck. At Otley Road a choice had to be made, Hetchins Vintage or Dawes Tourer, the fine weather meant it was the Hetchins. This is an example of why all Wheel Easy riders should have as many bikes as their garages or other halves can cope with. Ask Paul T for advice on how to proceed. He has recently sold a few bikes and is down to the minimum. Unfortunately he is not prepared to say what the minimum is! The first stop was Stump Cross Caverns Cafe, this meant the EG`s had climbed from the lowest part of Knaresborough ( Low Bridge) to the highest village in Yorkshire? maybe. Sorry about this Daniel (a new rider). At Pennypot Lane Roy left for the charms of Sophie and a quick fix, and Norman a little later before Menwith. The wind picked up a little on the climb up Duck Street, but no problems and then into the cafe for refreshment large and small (ranging from flapjack to sausage, egg and chips). It was then return back down Duck Street with some phenomenal wind assist freewheeling in some cases up hill. Continuing along the ridge in the sun, great, the day had turned out OK nothing could go wrong now, well it did, just after Clapham Green Dave P`s

front tyre blew, nearly off the rim, and non repairable. Better later than earlier. Dave S and Rob set off for Otley Rd in Dave's pick up truck, whilst DP walked in to Hampsthwaite to join the rest in Sophie's cafe (that's the good bit). Dave S and Rob then joined us for tea and cake, then we all headed for home. Dave S and Rob (heroes of the hour) and Dave P headed for Otley Road in the pick up truck. Dave P did not have to climb any hills out of Hampsthwaite (that's another good bit). When the sun is shining cold beer is also good. Dave P



