

Wednesday, October 24, 2012

Wednesday Rides



Poddlers Ride Report

After a number of attempts at counting it was finally decided there were 18 Poddlers though at Farnham we lost Caroline and Jane as for some reason they decided to do the route in the opposite direction. Our leader Gordon when telling us where he was going used the word by instead of to in front of Boroughbridge. This was a very crafty way of preventing Joe going to his favourite bacon buttie cafe! Joe was already upset having had to endure the discomforts of the appalling road surface on Hookstone Chase as his requests to find a different way to Knaresborough were ignored! Passing through the Dunsforths, we had a short stop at Great Ouseburn and returned via Arkendale and Knaresborough. About 31 miles at a steady pace which gave plenty of scope for talking and nearly all dry. Thank you to Gordon for leading and Steve for backmarking. Liz

Wheel Easy Ride Report

Each of us had rather different requirements for the end of the day. Richard needed to be in Pateley Bridge for a lecture on Nidderdale railways at 2.00 or

thereabouts; Dave R needed to be back in HG for 2.30; I was to collect my wife's car from Starbeck after its MoT test at 4.30. Having said no to Richard's offer of off-roading we followed the crowd to Low Bridge, where I had the first flat of the day. Although it was soon fixed there was a nagging doubt about the cause of the pin-prick puncture - nothing obvious had got through the case. We headed into the mist for Ripon, via Chain Lane, Farnham, Copgrove, skirting Bishop Monkton, across the by-pass and into the city along Heckler Lane. Thence to our favourite cafe via Borrage Lane. En route, I made a poor joke about Heckler Lane being the cradle of democracy in the city, but Richard helpfully remarked that a heckler was also someone who combed flax fibres (with a hatchel, evidently). Ripon Spa Gardens were covered in a damp grey shroud, so there was no enthusiasm for sitting outside. Inside, Richard showed some video clips of fellow members in action at the Velodrome the previous week. The damp must have shorted Richard's antennae, as we set off again on the wrong road. Re-starting, we headed for Studley and Fountains, passing "rutting" signs in notice board and animal forms. Just past the church, I had my second flat of the day - most annoying, but at least this had a visible and audible source. Schwalbe Marathons next for me, I think. At Fountains Visitor Centre, we said farewell to Richard who set off to Pateley, while Dave and I headed back to HG via Ripley and Knox, stopping briefly to look at the point where the proposed bridleway from Nidd Viaduct will emerge near to the old bridge and making a diary note for the Public Inquiry to be held in January. The final leg of the ride was to Mercer Gallery for a browse around the Open Competition and a quizzical look at the first prize entry - "Nithering Almscliff" by Julia Odell. In all, 35 miles riding in the mist and mirk, but our separate requirements for the day were met. Terry Smith.

EG's Ride Report

Arriving on a misty dank morning at Low Bridge today I was greeted by twelve disciples (The "Committee") discussing which direction to venture. Rob's suggestion of Lotherton Hall had been all but agreed so off we set stopping off in Wetherby for our first Cafe break -Morrisons, where apparently someone had lost the key to the cafe so we were ushered through the main store into the cafe. Refreshments complete Terry left us with a date with "Sonia" in Boroughbridge, the remnants of the peloton heading south to Tadcaster via the cyclepath & Boston Spa. Leaving Tadcaster on the A162 we continued towards Lotherton Hall, briefly stopping off at Towton battle field. Here there was some confusion as several members of the peloton broke away on the front so eager to reach Lotherton Hall they missed the intended route through Saxton village a much more pleasant ride. Regrouping for lunch at Lotherton Hall we tentively agreed the course therefrom to reach our

next destination, back through Aberford, Barwick, Thorer and Bramham to link with the cycle path next to the A1. From here we were able to head for home via Wetherby where apparently one renegade decided to break away for coffee whilst the rest of us battled the elements towards Knaresborough & Harrogate. Four E.G's peeled off at Little Ribston to follow the shorter, less hilly course to Harrogate the remaining five powering along the B6164 to reach Knaresborough approx 3.30pm. On average most of the "peloton" will have covered about 52 miles, which, considering the poor conditions and the rapidly fading light, is admirable. Well done everyone!! David Watson.



