

Wednesday, November 7, 2012

## **Wednesday Rides**

### Poddlers Ride Report

It was another El Butler ride and 18 poddlers assembled to follow the legendary leader who had left his sickbed so as not to let down his followers. There was also a birthday girl who preferred to poddle than party! Another did some of the ride with a dozen eggs in their saddlebag- there has been a lot of chat about baking on recent rides or maybe scrambled eggs was on the menu! The sun was shining but the wind was a problem as we went over Killinghall Bridge and all were glad to leave the main road at Ripley. Hopefully next year we will be able to use the new cycle route! We slowly climbed up to Raventofts Hall, turned right at Watergate and on to Fountains Visitor centre. Here 6 of the group went for a coffee while the remainder went into Studley Park where Dennis

set us off in groups of 4 for the Poddlers Freewheel race. The second group were forced to stop when a herd of deer crossed the road in front of them but what a magnificent sight! Congratulations to the winner Caroline. The route was then Ripon, Littlethorpe and Bishop Monkton where we turned right towards Markington and straight into a headwind. By the time we reached Knox there were a few weary Poddlers glad to be nearly home after a long battle against the wind. About 33 miles. Thank you Dennis for a great ride. Liz



### Wheel Easy Ride Report

The poddlers were organised and Richard was heading for the hills." Martin has a plan" called Yvonne so 7 of us peddled off after Martin as we'd all heard the words coffee and Hampsthwaite. On what was a gloriously sunny and clear day for autumn, we headed off in the direction of Low Bridge Knaresborough from where we continued via Farnham, Bishop Monkton and Markington. Heading up to Shaw Mills was hard going into a strong headwind, aptly named Hurricane Sophie by Gia. (Hurricanes do follow in alphabetical order so after Sandy and on route to Sophie's it couldn't possibly be anything else.) With not a cobweb left on us and ruddy faces it was scones all round and an assortment of hot drinks before we headed off under darkening skies back to Harrogate. Only 28 miles on the clock but there had been some hard peddling into wind.



Geoff dithered as to whether to join us , lest he not manage it. Well somehow he managed to wait for us at every turn. So far in front the absence of mudguards was not too troublesome. Take the wild wind away and he may never be seen again. Better do, as I had to lend him his lunch, perhaps he thought it was to be a quick morning blast. Well done as his longest ride to date but not for long. The Masham route as ever was an indirect 31m of hills and adverse winds. Max speed blowing up Bishopside was 41mph. Countless rainbows and a mirage viaduct at Menwith golf balls. The different 30m back was a variation through Thornborough and Ripon. Caught at the lights at Bond End I thought the riders had become the rump of EGs. Presumably still rushing on to manage the Otley Road before it blew away. With all the wind today tonight's AGM should be a quiet one. Richard out 2300ft <http://app.strava.com/activities/27169904> back <http://app.strava.com/activities/27169881>

### EG's Ride Report

One weather forecast said cloudy all day, but at Low Bridge there was sun and patches of blue sky, and the promise of some good cycling. The number of riders started to increase, passing a cricket team, then a rugby team with a reserve. Dave W was missing due to Pam being ill, so best wishes from the

EG`s to them both. After consultation with sailor Colin on how to use the wind to our advantage, the sixteen riders headed in a northerly direction to Farnham. Once again the Farnham Freewheel Cup was taken by Dave S on his super wheels ??, supported by Bill who says weight has nothing to do with it? Then on to Spa Gardens Cafe with the wind on our port side. Rob asked the usual question "was this a lunch stop" well he is a growing lad, so a lunch stop was added to the ride.

Bob and Roy left to return by a shorter route, the remaining fourteen on to Wath, then mostly wind assist in bright sunshine to Asenby, and Cundall (you missed that Bob) to Thornton Bridge, then in some headwind to Boroughbridge and Tasty Snacks Cafe (Eric and Peter B choosing Morrisons). In Tasty Snacks, Marvin ordered a Cholesterol Sandwich on arriving it turned out to be four breakfasts in a roll (see photo). Usually only Eric could take on a challenge like this, but Marvin prevailed. Then back to Knaresborough and Harrogate still in sunshine but with a reduced wind (taking care to whisper has the wind dropped).A good days cycling , if this is winter it beats the summer.

Maximum mileage around 50/51 miles. Dave P.

