

Wednesday, November 28, 2012

Wednesday Rides



Poddler Ride

Whilst adhering to the CG Leaders List, I decided to ask co-pilot Gordon, if he would actually lead today's ride. Reasons were quite legit – anyone following me may well have suffered from hypothermia owing to slow speed! Gordon was totally acquiescent and having looked at my routes, decided to head off away from the gusts. Twenty Poddlers separated into driver-handling groups and we hurtled (yes!) to the Rossett Cycle Path and then on to Beckwithshaw and thence to Little Almscliffe. A quick photo call ensued celebrating the approach of this season "to be jolly..." and then it was the rapid descent. Caroline, having observed Surge- on's technique shot ahead with gusto and positively cruised up the incline towards the A59. Having crossed an amazingly quiet A59, we passed the main entrance to Menwith Hill – always a subject of interest with comments referring to Facebook and Twitter aplenty...

The sun shone and the views were, as ever, magnificent as we dropped into Hampsthwaite. Four thirsty souls left to partake of Sophie's bounty and the rest scaled Hollins Hill and onward to Grainbeck Lanewhere Jane left us for

the delights of a warm house – she did say Kevin would need a decent lunch when he returned from Harrogate!! Having crossed the magnificent and newly restored ford on Knox Lane, Poddlers dispersed to their various lunch dates and venues. Everyone reported their individual departures, which is always very useful. As Lynda and I continued our pedal, it was good to reflect on the joys of today's ride – biting winds ensuring more wrinkles, potholes in roads guaranteeing jolted spines but hey ho, that's the pleasure of poddling! Thank you for being excellent companions and here's to the next! Sue D





Wheel Easy Ride

There was a good gathering at Hornbeam, the sun was shining, the Poddlers were well organised, Xmas Lunch and Wheel Easy clothing arrangements were announced and then we were off! William arrived and chased down the leading pack led by amongst others, Richard, David and Julie who were heading for "Wharfedale". Martin proposed a route out towards Darley which was well received, so seven of us swept up towards Stainburn Woods, stopping to encourage Malcolm en route! We chatted with the Poddlers out of Beckwithshaw who were no doubt set to outride our group with more miles! Our claim is that we do more hills, but this is no more than generous banter, this is not a competition! The views were beautiful, sun on the hills and the chill manageable. We had a good stop at Darley Mill discussed the merits of teenage parties in ones homes, Sports Personality of the Year finalists and lots of other topics. Nice to welcome Geoff again who is becoming a regular now that he has retired. As we left Malcolm arrived, looking very chilly and as though he has been to the dentist with a frozen mouth. The café was a good place to warm up. Home via Hampsthwaite, leaving Colin who rode on to Brimham and Geoff to return via Pennypot. The rest of us inspected the work done by the AFC at the top of the Jennyfield path and gave it our approval. We couldn't fail to comment though that this path is still not signed but as we

have had instructions from NYCC to quieten down a bit we shall hold on that one.....for a while. 27 miles, great mornings ride in good company as always. Gia

Julie picked today's destination,- Bolton Abbey. Five of us set off on an initially cold and cloudy day but were treated to sunshine for most of the ride. We went via Timble, Askwith, then via Carters Lane and Middleton to Langbar to enjoy the superb views of Ilkley. We then had refreshments at Bolton Abbey and continued via Barden Tower, Skyreholme, Greenhow, Penny Pot Lane to Harrogate. A very enjoyable sunny 53 mile ride with good company. Distance: 52.97 miles. Ascent 2982 ft. Dave R



EG's Ride

One of the weather forecasts said cloudy with sunny spells, but for once it was better than forecast, with clear blue skies. In the words of George Formby (who is he? I hear) "Turned out nice again". Thanks to Dave S (in his big pick up truck) who had sussed out the road situation, Tuesday and Wednesday morning we had a rough idea where the wet stuff was. Not that the EG`s are worried about getting wet feet or wading bottom bracket deep, but some of the irresponsible driving seen personally and on TV over this

past period of flooding, on the flooded and partially flooded roads warned us to stay away where possible. So sixteen riders, just like those folk who had not booked in advance on Noahs Ark, it was head for the hills. From Low Bridge to Ripley via the B6165 and the climb up to Bedlam, a name usually associated with noise, however today it was just heavy breathing and clunking into granny rings (with the exception of Theo, that is). On to Brimham Moor with magnificent views and a clear blue sky, here it was decided to take the B6265 in to Ripon as the route via Sawley has a nasty dip in it at Hebden Woods. Some riders headed for Spa Gardens Cafe (to chat up Caroline for extra helpings next Wednesday) and the others for Tiffins (the old Workhouse? very Dickensian). The gathering point was Ripon Cathedral. Dave S thought there would be no problems with the quick route back via Littlethorpe and Bishop Monkton (and there wasn't). Eric, Peter B and Theo wanted some extra miles and returned via Boroughbridge (or did Sonia and Tasy Snacks have something to do with it ??). An excellent run back to Knaresborough and Harrogate in sun and blue sky and no wind to speak of, an ideal way to finish off November rides. December rides may be somewhat constrained not by bad weather we hope, but by a surfeit of turkey, plum pud and the odd noggin. Mileage around 43 miles for the majority (with three riders on about 50 miles), with around 2,800 feet of climbing(courtesy of Marvin's high tech handlebars), once again brilliant views, and in to Harrogate for around 2-15 pm, before the chill. See you all next Wenesday. Warning notices have been posted regarding the effects of Sloe Gin. Dave P



