

Wednesday, December 12, 2012

## Wednesday Rides



### Poddlers Ride

Nine stalwarts turned up at Hornbeam on a very cold morning; we were rather hoping no-one would, as there were all sorts of dire warnings of ice and freezing fog. Evidently we had made it safely to Hornbeam and James had even come up the cycle path from Knaresborough alongside the A59 and he reported that the path was not slippery. Geraldine and I had originally thought of going to Boroughbridge via Knaresborough, Farnham, Marton-cum-Grafton and back via Roecliffe, but the prospect of more ice in the countryside made us consider alternatives. We spent a bit of time discussing possibilities, and it was agreed we would go to Low Bridge and re-assess the state of play there. We took the usual route past Morrisons and along Forest Moor Road (a road I personally do not like, as very often we get cars passing too close to us) and down to Low Bridge, where the EGs were beginning to gather. I'm afraid to admit that the ride leaders bailed out at this stage (I blame Geraldine, as she pleaded coldness rather than concern over the icy conditions), so a hardy 6 carried on towards Boroughbridge under new leadership (Glyn wanted to get some eggs from some strange, remote places

somewhere in the vicinity of Marton-cum-Grafton), while Max, Geraldine and I headed back along Waterside for a coffee in Rascals café, and then up the cycle path alongside the A59 (you were right, James; it wasn't slippery) and back along Bogs Lane. We 3 did about 9 miles; not sure about the hardier Poddlers. Joe





## **Wheel Easy Ride**

Nine brave souls gathered in the Car Park at Hornbeam Park on a cold and icy looking morning for the regular ride. Joe and Geraldine stepped forward as Ride Leaders and said the proposed ride was too risky and sought guidance as to what to do. As no one was brave enough to say 'Let's go home now' a group consensus was that we ride to Low Bridge and reassess the situation. After a quick dash to Knaresborough everyone had had time for a hard think and 4 of the group (including Jo, Geraldine and Max) decided, on balance, to call it a day and retire to a café for coffee and home. They assured everyone it was nothing to do with the arrival of 'Yogi Bear' Dave of the EG's and his hat and the ensuing embarrassment! The remaining 5 decided that as they had got up and braved the cold to press on to Boroughbridge via Farnham and Roecliffe. Glyn was on an egg hunt (don't ask!) and achieved his goal in Roecliffe village and spent part of the time in the Foundry café in Boroughbridge inspecting his purchase. Sue C and Jen had hoped to use the stop to warm up but this failed as it was nearly warmer outside than in the café! After a longish break, including discussing the potential winner of Strictly( Tracy Beaker if you really want to know) the group set off back to Harrogate via Minskip and Staveley and Knaresborough. The sun had begun to shine and it even started to feel

slightly warm! Glyn and Jen decided to take a steadier ride back and split off from the group and James rode home from Bond End leaving me and Sue to tackle Knaresborough Hill before Sue disappeared to Spa Cycles for essential bits for her cycle maintenance class ( class swot or wot?) . It was an enjoyable ,if cold, outing and everyone was glad they had made the effort. The group stuck to the better country roads and they were all clear as long as you took care. An enjoyable ride in great company.26 steady miles (with a dozen eggs purchased and none broken!). Kevin





## **EG's Ride**

It was a cold and frosty morning, and the arriving EG`s excelled themselves in the art of covering up exposed skin. Peter J looked like he was ready to rob a bank, but the prize for hairy headgear went to Dave S for wearing a dead cat, or as PB said some form of road kill on his head (see photo). A quick chat to some Wheel Easy Wednesdayers (similarly clad), before heading for Angela`s cafe on the A168. Whilst heading in that direction one of the days highlights (beside the bacon sandwiches) was to see a prat of the first water in a sports car overtake us on the wrong side of a traffic island. Unbeknown to him, just behind was a small emergency ambulance, who took exception to this stupid behaviour and switched on his siren, causing the said prat to come to a screeching halt, expecting his collar to be felt. On passing him the ambulance switched off his siren. Leaving a subdued prat with brown underpants at the side of the road. At Angela`s we were joined by Bob and Gary making the numbers up to nine. After excellent sustenance it was on to Grafton and Lower Dunsforth with Bob and Gary leaving us at Great Ouseburn. At Aldwark Bridge, Eric, Peter B, and Peter J, to lessen cafe shock did a fast pace to Home Farm Cafe, followed by Dave P, Dave S, Dave W and Norman at a more sedate pace. However the cafe must have had the time and motion guys in for we were served quite fast. On entering the cafe it seemed like we

were in an antenatal clinic as it seemed full of bonny babies (the Mums were quite bonny too). Eric and Peter B then headed for York, the remainder to Arkendale, with Norman continuing to Farnham and home. The remaining four to Coneythorpe, Goldsborough, Knaresborough and home. Another good days cycling despite the cold , the roads also being quite good with the odd place where care was needed. Mileage 57 for the hard men ie Eric and PB. and 49 max for the more timid souls. Dave P.

