

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Wednesday Rides



Poddlers Ride

Sixteen Poddlers poddled off to Wetherby via Burnbridge and Kirby Overblow in 2 fluid groups for safety reasons. Alison diverted at Burnbridge to post a card but was still in front and Caroline lost her chain but fixed it herself before Glyn could get his hands on it! We arranged to meet up at The Shambles in Wetherby so that some could go directly home while the others were very excited to try the recommended coffee stop at Morrisons in Wetherby. However Caroline was so excited about the £2 prawn sandwiches that she went directly to Morrisons leaving the leader to do an extra circuit of Wetherby looking for her and then a circuit of Morrisons trying to find a way in! 9 of us enjoyed a chat in Morrisons ranging from metre long home-made crackers to how Joe is going to wrap Geraldine's present! Then it was homeward via Kirk Deighton and Little Ribston into Knaresborough with cars continually racing past. Some of us returned via Forest Lane where we felt as though we were in the middle of the Grand Prix! A cold damp day and about 25 miles. Liz



Wheel Easy Ride

Today our group actually had a plan! Head to Timble and Thruscross and if we felt inclined end up in Hampsthwaite! Dave R, Richard and Rick sped off ahead and no doubt gobbled up a lot of very hilly miles by midday! Did they say where they were going? We followed the Poddlers who of course are always very well organised and disciplined until Rossett Park Road where we followed Paul on a mission up to Stainburn Woods, proving that Rohloffs are the business. Sue and I missed the mutterings at Norwood but it became clear that Timble was off and talk of riding past a cemetery and through the weather station was more inviting. We resisted all temptations to take photos lest we were arrested. At the road end Martin told us very firmly that he was turning right to Menwith and Clapham Green. Sue and Malcolm asked in unison about the alternative and despite the prospect of the climb out of Birstwith no one lost face and we all trundled off to Darley. So we arrived at Sophie's with some good climbs and we all indulged in good food with our coffees. 28 hilly miles, a good workout and as always jolly company and plans to be even more focussed on our planned rides next year. Gia



Another ride to we don't know where, when we set off. Would we find the way to Pateley, no the mist was down, could we find the wood entrance for bikes welcome at Stang Forest, no, but even with numerous weaving roads we did find a warm welcome on a damp day at Darley mill. After the fire the ride was straight, in so far as I have a clue what that means, home. 31miles with Rick and Dave and plenty of hills to tire me as I had gone out yesterday assuming it would have been a no go today per the forecast. Richard.



EG's Ride

Dave P had phoned in sick so deputy Dave W. was appointed "route-measter" for the day. So meeting with 10 other hardy E.G's at Low Bridge we set off south on a meandering course towards Tadcaster intending to get some reasonable mileage in before the forecasted rain caught us up. Norman and Terry left us at the old A1 to head directly for breakfast in Taddy. The remaining nine continued via Hunsingore, Cattal, Tockwith and towards Walton. It was here that the over enthusiasm of Peter R and Eric caught us out since they missed the intended right junction to Walton and continued on their own route in the direction of Tadcaster via Wighill and Healaugh. Dave W persuaded the "peloton" to follow the planned route to Walton, Thorp Arch, Clifford and up the sharp climb to Bramham. Pausing to regroup the faster riders decided to accelerate in the direction of Tadcaster perhaps with the smell of bacon butties or baked beans on toast filling their nostrils. Arriving just after midday we were pleased and perhaps a little surprised to note that all bar one member had safely arrived at the cafe. Some were perhaps on their second course and were noted to leave shortly after we six had arrived. Was it something we said perhaps? Refreshments complete, bellies full, we assembled outside to unlock the bikes, one from the other, only to find that Marvin was unable to release his high security lock

previously bought from Lidl's. Nothing we did persuaded it to open. So we sent Marvin down to the local ironmongers to find a solution. In the meantime Theo got out his pliers in an attempt to part the wire loop. No chance! All efforts failed. However Marvin soon returned with a strapping young man carry these enormous bolt croppers. I don't know what account Marvin spun when approaching the ironmonger with his tale of woe but I suppose he needed to ensure the cries of help were genuine. So the young man, full of confidence attacked the lock/wire-loop with his boltcropper only to realise Lidl's products, although inexpensive do really work and are fit for purpose. After about three minutes a loud cheer was heard. At last we were free and could head on our way. Thanking the young man we decided to continue towards home the most direct route through, Boston Spa, down Wetherby cycle track and towards Little Ribston, pausing to switch on lights in Boston Spa where John E discovered he'd no candle power. Quickly to the rescue came Peter R with a spare light and on we went. At Little Ribston, 3 members peeled off towards Spofforth, the remaining five opting to follow the road to Knaresborough safely arriving just after 2.00pm Most members will have completed about 42 miles, some less, but in slightly warmer, and drier conditions of late we had a good ride, avoiding any forecasted bad weather. Dave W



