

Wednesday, February 6, 2013  
Wednesday Rides

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**Best wishes and a speedy recovery from all Wheel Easy members to Richard Pugh**, who has been knocked off his bike by a car driver. I called in to Hornbeam car park to enquire how he is progressing and was told by Liz that he would be getting plastered today! Go for it Richard, a number of us agree that alcohol is better for pain relief than aspirin. Dave P



### **Poddlers Ride**

We were all very pleased and relieved to learn from Liz (Pugh) that following the horrid accident, Richard is making progress and could leave LGI on Friday. Liz said they were very touched by all the messages sent by Wheel Easy members.

A welcome was extended to Chris Bean who joined today. Unfortunately, there were problems with his bike and after only two miles, Chris returned – hopefully safely and with no problems re-tracing the route; not easy when you've come from Guiseley with little knowledge of Harrogate. We look forward to seeing Chris again. Our appointed leaders, Steve and Alison N, were unable to lead today so apologies to all worthy Poddlers - you ended up with me! The planned route was pretty basic given the wind and the threat of ice:

**Hornbeam to Stray Rein to East Park to Bower Rd to Skipton Rd to Knox to Grainbeck Lane to Manor Rd to Killinghall to Nidd to Brearton to Scotton to Lingerfield to Knaresborough to Bogs Lane to Stray to York Rd to Hornbeam 19miles**

In the event, the wind was not a great problem and the rise in temperature meant the ice had melted. There were initially twelve of us and we eventually broke into two fours and a two – at least, I think the two Johns poddled together. Max, Dennis, Gordon and Alison S rode speedily and added a further 4 miles to the route while Caroline, Liz, Jen and I did what Malcolm once termed a "sedate" pace. Despite the chill, it proved a very pleasant ride. We periodically compared feet and hand temperatures – I was trying out some rather strange sock and glove liners, which looked more appropriate for a Buckingham Palace Garden Party given that they are white and sparkly – I suppose if one orders from the "Daily Telegraph"... Caroline and Max await their delivery. As is the way with all good plans, we met our esteemed fast pals beside the seat outside Harrogate Golf Club and returned as an eightsome – six went to Caroline's for a "Muffin Munch". My route home via South Park Road, St Georges Road and Rossett Drive was somewhat inhibited by road-mending equipment – could this be the pothole menders or yet another trench from our Utilities friends?! Thank you one and all. Sue Downes

### **Wheel Easy Ride**

We gathered at a sheltered Hornbeam and after a short discussion agreed with Sue and Colin to ride to Fountains Villageto see if the snow drops were out. William, who normally rides with the faster group, joined us as we set off. There was a cold chill to the biting wind and it soon became clear we were following a similar route to the Poddlers and on the way to Knox there were a few 'crossovers' of riders to different groups with John joining us on the 'caffeine' trail making our number up to nine. After a steady ride into the wind to Hampsthwaite several riders, who had commitments in the early afternoon, decided to spin off and do a shorter loop and return to Sophie's for coffee and home. This left the 'Five Go to Fountains' group who set off chasing Billy Whiz (aka William) to Shaw Mills. With either a cross wind or head wind it was hard work, particularly as we were going at a faster than normal pace. On arrival at Fountains we were disappointed with the snowdrops (we were perhaps a week early) so we carried on through the deer park and down into Ripon and Café Nero for coffee (and oxygen for some of us!). An interesting discussion on the final resting place of Richard the Third took place over coffee (you see we are intellectuals really) which included the input from a very knowledgeable customer who turned out to be an historian. The majority were for York or Middleham although Colin said 'Littlethorpe' which amazed us until we realized he was talking about the route home! After all that cranial exertion we set off back to Harrogate via the aforementioned Littlethorpe and a John inspired detour through Bishop Monkton where William finally let rip and was never seen again as he sped off on his way back to Harrogate. The final four pushed on through Knaresborough and into Starbeck where John went his merry way down Bogs Lane and the remaining few went through Starbeck back into Harrogate. A really enjoyable ride and we were pleased to complete the ride without any disruption as others have over the last couple of weeks. Thanks to William for his pace making (our legs are now getting feeling back thanks!) and to Sue, John and Colin for the great chat, support and pacing! 35 hard but enjoyable miles. Final thing –no photo this week as we couldn't catch William to get the whole group together! Kevin

Paul, John and Gia managed to make it to Hampsthwaite, add a modest Birstwith Hall loop and fit in a coffee at Sophie's joined by a potential member for 2030 and his Grandma. On our return we inspected the work done by the Army Foundation College on clearing the vegetation and shrubs along the Beryl Burton. Repair work to the surface and cattle grids are due in 2013-2014. There we met Martin who with Malcolm had been taking measurements for preparation of a design for the underpass at Follifoot by pass. We rode down the Beryl Burton which at the top end is much improved, but less so at the open field where there were several very interested horses. We cycled back up the Knaresborough Road which once again is coned off to give cyclists a safe lane to the cycle path. This is on our wish list to North Yorkshire to make this permanent. Gia



**EG'S Ride**

We had eleven riders at Low Bridge who headed for Morrisons in Wetherby with, for once no rain, and with the wind on our backs. After sustenance ten riders headed towards York, Dave P with a bad back and a certain undergarment (excitement for PB) headed for Harrogate. Look forward to a report from an Eric and two Daves? Dave P

Following our intrepid leaders departure from the peloton, heading out from Morrisons at Wetherby, there was an echo of a call to head for the still "waters" of Boston Spa. Off we went via the usual cycle way arriving in broken formation on the southern boundaries. Dave W. took up the baton & continued south until reaching nearby Newton Kymes where a sudden diversion was demanded via "Watson Lane" south west towards Tadcaster Grammer School. Regrouping back on the main highway the old A64(A659) we turned towards Tadcaster, passing through and across the bridge to the traffic lights on the hill where we turned right for Bolton Percy. So far the weather had remained kind to us. The wind not too strong, mainly on our backs and for a change a little sunshine. Passing by Bolton Percy we headed left and this time into the northerly winds which by now were increasing. Through Colton village one member dashed off into the distance to secure himself a hidden spot behind a tree, for what reason we are left to guess. Collecting him up into the peloton some half mile later a sudden voice was heard from the rear, "puncture"! Peter J's rear tyre had picked up a sharp object & no amount of wishful thinking and pumping of air could persuade the tyre to retain pressure until the tube was replaced. At this stage Rob, who had been absent from the E.G.'s rider for a few weeks, decided to head off early on his own at a steadier pace for a lunch halt in Rufforth. (Hope our directions were helpful & he managed to reach the cafe safely - we didn't see him again the rest of the day! Sorry Rob.)

The remaining nine continued to the A64 roundabout near Copmanthorpe. Here there was some indecision and not a little confusion. It was by now 1.20pm and some members not too sure if the time was ripe to head off for home. Following a little if not decisiveness on the part of Peter B., we all cycled off into York to lunch at "Wetherspoons" Most riders seem to partake of a hearty lunch and one member was noted to even help himself to a pint of "guinness". (It is believed this may have been contributory to his progress on the return journey being punctuated by yet another dash for the undergrowth). Upon leaving "Wetherspoons" we were met by horrendous weather, Bill blocking our exit whilst gathering up his waterproof leggings. Shouts of assistance from Peter B were conveniently ignored. Off we went towards Acomb & Rufforth into wind, rain, snow and even blizzard which stung the remaining exposed skin on our faces. Bill pushed the wind at quite a pace along the B1224 turning right at Long Marston for Tockwith. The wind was beginning to tire the legs so Eric volunteered to "push the wind" inviting Dave W. to tuck in behind. A good pace was held on the way back to Grimbald Bridge @ Knaresborough (thanks Eric) and Dave W with Dave S said their goodbyes leaving the remainder of the group to head off up towards Harrogate. Despite the weather, which to be honest was patchy, I think the consensus was it was a good ride. Arriving home before 4.00pm, most people completing 53 miles. Thanks for the company everyone. Dave.W.

### **Travellers' Tales**

Over 50 members attended 'Travellers' Tales'. Four speakers each gave an excellent account of travels from last year. John Russell on the Wheel Easy Pennine Cycleway tour and his solo ride from the furthest point east to the furthest point west. Sue Downes and Max Graham on a ride along the Trans Pennine Trail and Angela Prescott on the tour she organised cycling in Holland. Lastly Ian Newall on the Brompton World Championships at Blenheim Palace. It was a great evening. Thank you everyone.

