

Wednesday, March 27, 2013

Wednesday Rides



Poddlers plod across Strayberian wastes

Another glorious Spring Day - oops, that was last year's Report!

Our Poddler Planner (Caroline) had given the post of Lead Rider to Gordon to be ably assisted by me. In the event, Gordon nobly led John plus Sue and Paul, who usually do magnificent ascents and great lengths and speeds. Seven of us (Caroline, Max, Geraldine, Liz, Jane, John W and Sue D) had proved to be wimps yet again and set off to meander round the highways and byways of Harrogate. The actual object was to have coffee at Rasmus but it only seemed right to add several loops and laps to what is a fairly short route. Thus, we picked our way over several of the Stray's paths. There was ice and snow aplenty and Liz, having been assured that the way would be clear, removed her "Yak-trax" and relied on sticks. The going was tough but great was the merriment as we stepped in a rather geriatric manner towards the delights of coffee, exotic teas, chocolate and beetroot cake, white chocolate and raspberry flapjack to name but few... Liz left from Rasmus to do retail therapy - she assured us this did not involve grapes and Lucozade for Richard. An Easter Egg had been mentioned so as Liz beetled off towards Montpelier Mount, a degree of speculation as to the supplier of eggs ensued. Caroline nobly assumed the role of Chief Scout and we had a most enjoyable tour of the hinterland leading to Otley Road via a variety of ginnels and snickets which passed the beautiful but decaying St Mary's Church and several new houses unseen by any of us before. The highlight of this excursion was the Caro-Jane commentary - here was their youthful stomping ground and we listened agog to stories of stealing a steam roller and whacking a hockey ball in some unfortunate's face. Various houses were pointed out as the former homes of Mr Hill, Head of the Grammar School, Mrs Horson (can't remember her claim to fame but Max wondered whether her neighbour was Mr Carte!) and Wheel Easy's Malcolm. Obeisance was made to the former home and gateposts respectively of the young misses Caroline Measures and Jane Steele. Geraldine left us at Manor Road to visit her mother and the rest parted company at West End Avenue to wend their individual ways home. Thank you all for a very interesting morning. Sue D



Wheel Easy Ride

Gordon led John, Sue and Paul to Spofforth and Little Ribston. He suggested continuing to Knaresborough and Scotton but the pull of Costa and a 'flat white' was too strong for Sue and Paul who continued on to Wetherby and then home via Kirkby Overblow. A good 25 miles and great to be back on the bike. Paul



EG's Report

Only five brave souls (the three Daves, Peter J & Glynn) gathered at Low Bridge today seeking for guidance to the nearest warm cafe. Our leader, Dave P. deferred to his deputy, Dave W. to navigate our way through the snow flurries and the arctic easterlys prevailing this "Spring". So we headed towards "Angela's" cafe for tasters just to test the water so to speak. A gentle pace saw us arrive just before 11am, in time to join four leather clad Police motorcyclists, who were also seeking shelter from the cold. Refreshments complete we decided to continue further east, into the wind for a short distance and then journey south, with the wind mainly behind us, towards Wetherby for a late lunch. Initially the weather seem to hold out as we passed though Lower Dunsforth & Great Ouseburn, but once more, turning east for a short distance at Green Hammerton, we were met by a significant snow flurry. Heads into the wind we battled on, crossing the A59 and skirting through Kirk Hammerton. The weather seem to ease so we continued south through Cattel, crossing the B1224 for Walton and then turning west for well earned hot drinks and refreshments @ Morrison's, in Wetherby. By now riders were tiring of the bitter wind and the consensus was to return to base and a hot shower. Approroximately 42miles completed, arriving home about 2.45pm. Despite the cold everyone seemed to appreciate the ride. Dave Watson.

