

Wednesday, January 8, 2014

## Wednesday Rides

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### Poddlers Ride Report

Having realised and sorted out the error of my ways..... daring to think that the Poddlers' (myself included) would be ready to enter the age of computer technology for compiling the ride leader list and collected my knitting pattern for Tour de France Bunting, we were ready to set off. Ten or so sped off with Max and ten kindly decided they would carry out a leisurely Poddle this morning. However carrying on last week's tradition of abandoning anyone who had a puncture or a chain problem, we were reduced quickly to ten in total, as we left Mike the Bike on the side of the road struggling with a chain and then a tyre...Sorry Mike I hope you got back safely. The wind that had dropped at Hornbeam, had picked up on our way to Beckwithshaw and had reached an uncomfortable westerly gale force 9 as we (well I) struggled up Penny Pot Lane. Glyn and Joe had sorted out the world economic problems, Sue and Monica had revamped religion, Alison, Allison, Jen and Geraldine had talked about something else clever, and I had managed to breathe, as we turned off Penny Pot and onto a road not heading into the wind. Despite a small revolution at the Black Bull all managed to follow along Skipton Road and down Cold Cotes Lane. Dennis assured us that this road led back to the known route, which we used, swooooooping down gleefully towards Hampstwaite. Here we discovered a window full of Poddlers' in Sophie's and Gordon waiting to escort Allison for something more appley. Before we could decide the next move Monica, Joe and Geraldine had rushed in for coffee and cake and/or a light lunch. Jen, Sue Dennis, Glyn, and Alison and I headed homewards via Killinghall and the Greenway envying Dennis his home cooked lunch to be served as he arrived home. And for those people wondering about cheap toe and hand warmers, mine were purchased very reasonably for about £15 from Amazon for 28 pairs. The best bargain for toe and feet warmers were Easiheat. They are cheaper the more you get. Thank you for your patience and your company. CG



### Second Poddlers Ride Report

Plenty of takers, so steady away,  
Squinting Cat, Beckwithshaw, glorious day,  
Pot Bank, right, Pennypot Lane,

Into the wind and uphill gain.  
Constable Ridge Road, briefly the A59,  
Exercise care, traffic's a swine.  
Slack Lane brought a change of pace,  
Downhill to Hampthwaite, now it's a race.  
Siren Sophie attracted some not to roam,  
Many resisted, sped upwards and home.  
Second group assembly from green did leer,  
Rejected refreshment and with superior sneer,  
Poddled homewards amassing not many miles,  
Christmas excesses conquered, smiles, smiles, smiles.  
Thanks for your company, Max

### **Wednesday Ride Report**

6 riders set out from Hornbeam .....5 of the "usual suspects" plus Bob on his first ride out.....welcome, Bob. Through Town past the cinema to Knox, then Hampsthwaite and Birstwith, over the toll-bridge to the Pateley Road. A hard ride into the teeth of the wind funnelling down Nidderdale, it was a great relief to turn off for Glasshouses, Bewerley, and "Teacups" in Pateley. Suitably refreshed, we re-traced to the Pateley Road, then took the left fork at Wilsill up, up, and up again to Brimham....and up a bit more to the turn for Bishop Monkton, Ripley, and home on the Greenway. The strong wind had deserted us, but its still a lovely ride down..... Back to Harrogate about 2 o'clock....no rain, reasonable visibility, and even a bit of fitful sunshine. A good ride at this time of year. Colin T

After last week's deluge, this week's challenge was the wind. But we were confident that Timble's coffee morning would restore any lost calories and morale. And so it proved, but it wasn't easy! Six of us headed out via The Squinting Cat, Burn Bridge and Brackenthwaite Lane to the first decision point of the day. David R could see the fair skies over Wharfedale and was off on a solo ride to Bolton Abbey and, presumably, Stump Cross, Greenhow etc. Lesley and Richard S opted for a more direct route to Fewston and Timble, given the conditions - a sensible choice as it turned out. Richard P, Phil and Terry S opted for a hilly loop to Timble via Lindley, the gated road and Jack Hill, aiming to join Lesley and Richard for plenty of cakes and tea before closing time (noon). Tricky crosswinds on the gated road led to some experiments with leaning into the wind. Climbing to approach Norwood Bank, Richard's chain surrendered to his remorseless pounding. Despite efforts by Terry and Phil it proved reluctant to be rejoined without a magic link, leaving Richard to call Liz for rescue. With only 30 minutes to closing at Timble, Phil and Terry deleted the Jack Hill loop and headed up Norwood Bank, facing another tricky descent in the crosswind to the Swinsty turn. Mercifully the climbs up to Fewston and Timble were relatively sheltered and Phil and Terry arrived for tea and cakes with 10 minutes to spare. Lesley and Richard had left us plenty! They headed for home at closing time, via Pennypot, while Phil and Terry headed for Pateley. More windy climbing took us over Heyshaw Moor via Meagill Lane, Delves Ridge (no cooperative barrier controller this time) and Dacre. Descending Yorke's Folly was the usual careful technical manoeuvre, complicated by the occasional gust. A top-up of tea and teacake at Teacups set us up nicely for a tail-wind blast down valley road to Ripley, with frequent glimpses of threatening skies adding plenty of incentive. Unfortunately, on a couple of the fast descents Phil's cassette/freewheel began to make banshee screams, a problem that couldn't be resolved at the roadside, but would be needing attention very soon. We parted at Ripley to our separate destinations: 47 miles in total back to Hornbeam after a blustery ride to say the least. But, let's remember that this time last year we were cancelling rides due to ice and snow. It was good to be out. Terry S

After 4 miles I left the main group and continued to Otley, Ilkley then Bolton Abbey where I had coffee and delicious cake. I then continued on to Barden Tower, Stump Cross Caverns, Greenhow and back to Harrogate for 2.00pm. I had enough time to do a longer ride and couldn't resist the

chance to do one of my favourite rides through Wharfedale. I was rewarded with blue skies and sunshine, so a total of 57 miles. David R



### **EG' Ride Report**

Amongst all the bad weather warnings over the country, our forecast was pretty good, this was probably why we had seventeen/eighteen riders. Usually only Morrisons can handle this number, but we took a chance and headed for Tadcaster. The group was split up for safety on a busy road especially during midweek, Eric taking a faster group to Tykes Tearooms in Taddy. On arriving our slower group/s found a full house of York CTC Wednesday Wheelers, the back yard being bike full, including two electric bikes one of which was a tandem, well their average age would have been higher than the EG's (which is rare). It was decided to head for Boston Spa for caffeine leaving Eric's group to finish their sustenance and join us later. On the way to Boston we found we had picked up a York CTC Wed Wheeler, who was somewhat surprised to find that he was not heading for Selby. We found a cafe in Boston Spa that could take eleven, not bad. Then to be joined by Eric's group. After falling in and roll call, a group headed back to Wetherby, the remainder on to Bramham via Clifford. At Bramham two more left to return to Wetherby via the cycle path, the remainder on to East Rigton and Collingham, then Linton and Kirkby Overblow. We now had eight riders, roll call being difficult for the numerically challenged, comprising Colin, Dave P, Dave S, Dave Wilson, Eric, Michael, Peter R, and Rob fresh back from his travels (again) in America. Would estimate all home by 2-45pm, no rain, and about 46 miles max. We have been very lucky in the North of England. Dave P.  
ps Congatulations Paul T on Sunderland doing English Soccer a favour and beating Man U

