

Wednesday, August 5, 2015

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers' Ride

Only 6 of us today for poddling: Jeremy, Colin, Dennis and Marish, Geraldine and me. Liz Pugh's alternative ride to Pately Bridge clearly had more appeal. No rain forecast till late afternoon, and a 12 – 14 mph wind from the south didn't give us any cause for concern. Colin kindly volunteered to be back marker. Showground, Rudding, Follifoot and on to Wetherby on the Harland Way. Dennis had had enough by then, and he left the 5 of us to continue through Wetherby and on to the A1 cycle path. The southerly wind was noticeable but not too difficult to cope with. At the roundabout where the road joins the A1, instead of going under the A1 and taking the cycle path on the east side of the A1 towards Bramham, Geraldine expressed a desire to go along the A661 which runs parallel to the A1 on the west side, just for a change. The road is beautifully surfaced and really quite quiet. Right on Thorner Road and then right again on to small, peaceful Jewitt Lane towards Collingham, past the pig farm and the long swoop down into Collingham. Colin suggested the 1066 Café, which was new to me, but was very acceptable. Across the A58 to Linton and back into Wetherby, using the Harland Way to avoid the town centre. Back to Knaresborough via Kirk Deighton and Little Ribston, and then up the main road and cycle path to Bogs Lane. Colin carried on the main road to visit Spa Cycles. About 31 miles. Joe S



Puddled Poddlers' Ride

Over the winter we often think about cycling further to explore new areas and routes in the coming summer. Well it is August, we are still waiting for summer but we had better get on with our wish list before it is winter again! So a group of 6 set off in a different direction to the rest of the Poddlers. For a name the best we could do was the Puddled Poddlers! The route was Almscliffe Crag, Menwith Hill Road, Greenhow Hill Road, Braithwaite Lane, Yorke's Folly, Pateley Cattle Mart, Glasshouses, Smelthouses, Brimham, Warsill and Ripley (a medium plus ride on July 12th). It was hilly! Our pace allowed us time to admire the roadside flowers, the views of Nidderdale and have a good conversation. The weather good, sun at times, a brisk southerly wind and about 10 raindrops on the return route. It was noted that the male contingent had reached the bottom of Yorke's Folly before the ladies had got round the first bend but we all met up at Teacups though Andrew overshot and took a while to remember where we had said we were going! We had a warm welcome at Teacups and all indulged in bacon or sausage butties with some managing cake as well. Our arrival did clear the rest of the cafe but we hope it was a coincidence! On the first half of the return route, there was a lot of walking and that was not just me! Along the Greenway home the discussion turned to what next! 39 miles and 2611 feet of climbing. Liz P



Second Poddlers' Report

Six of us set off on the Poddler ride to Pateley Bridge and although the ride is said to be 2600ft in the main report, my mapping says 38 miles and 3050ft! I was impressed by Liz P leading such a 'hilly' route, perhaps she should be 'Sherpa Liz' in future. I also liked the way she looked after us when we came to hills, by thoughtfully getting off her bike and walking up after us just to make sure no one was left behind! Great ride. Controversially it was mentioned that if we are going to have a second Poddlers ride which, although ridden at a fairly sedate pace and covering more challenging country, and which may be conceived as either a separate ride or as an extension loop to a normal Poddler ride, I think we should consider leaving behind some of the more fanciful titles for the group and remain true to Wheel-easy roots and just call it the Poddler Plus. This can be thought of as a ride for those who want that bit of an extra challenge week after week, but not up to 'medium' standard or for someone who just feels good on that particular day and would like or could manage the extra work out. Which ever way the two rides this week seemed to work well and one didn't seem to detract from the other. Food for thought. Glyn

Colin's Ride

On a promising morning, seven of us set off on a "let's go to Easingwold for a coffee and look at the map" type of ride. So it was Easingwold, then Oulston and past Newburgh Priory to Coxwold, where we turned right for Byland Abbey. At Byland Abbey we took the left turn past the cafe that used to be a pub, this is a lovely wooded lane through Oldstead to Kilburn....photo of the group in Kilburn with the white Horse behind. From Kilburn we went to Bagby, which was re-named Bagpuss for to-day only, on the basis that the more unlikely the name, the more likely we would remember it....and it worked! The Bagpuss road runs just higher than the Vale of York, and we could see Great Whernside in the haze, and also Pen Hill, the long flat-topped hill by Leyburn in Wensleydale. The Bagpuss road also takes you straight across the A 19, which is a definite plus, although you have to wind about a bit in order to get to Boroughbridge.....after the A19 its left for Dalton, left again in Dalton, then right for Sessay where we picked up a familiar route to Boroughbridge....I counted we crossed the East Coast main line three times, either nobody else noticed or they were too polite to complain! Another feed at the farm shop cafe in Boroughbridge, then straight home through Minskip.

A good day, warm and bright, fairly strong southerly wind, which was never completely against us for too long at one time. Good company, and a well-matched group.....and some unfamiliar roads, which is always a bonus.

About 65 miles, mostly fairly gentle terrain, home about half past four. Colin T



EG's Ride

Following an early lunch or was it a late (full) breakfast at the Lemon Tree cafe in Tadcaster seven (plus 2 earlier) out of the original 15 riders deserted the peloton to return home to attend more pressing matters. Our earlier route had circumnavigated around Tockwith and Marston Moor to approach Tadcaster from an alternative direction meandering along at a very comfortable steady pace in the warm winds which accompanied us.

The six stalwarts remaining were encouraged to head towards the next break at Lotherton Hall, guide by Bob Shears who being on his own patch from earlier cycling times centred around Selby knew some of the local byways off by heart.

A new approach to Church Fenton was followed by a sneaky meander down a private road which initially lead us to a senior citizens nursing home and had us all worried. However eventually we passed by the local golf course and onwards to Saxton and L.H.

Being the school holidays it seemed busier than usual but our hunger pangs were soon slated and we continued on our way home.

Returning via the war memorial (Towton), to avoid a repeat visit to Tadcaster, we diverted through Stutton, Clifford and Boston Spa.

The cycle path adjacent to the A1 led us to Wetherby but to minimise difficulties with the traffic it was agreed to circumvent Wetherby along the by-pass and re-join our route on the north side near the old Niddvale motors site.

In hind sight this would seem to have been our best course as it was heard later that Bill Whale, who had been with us earlier, had an accident with a motor vehicle. (See D.S. brief report).

Likewise we all wish him well and hope he has survived without any undue physical consequences. Shame about the bike though which we know is his "pride and joy" being a classic machine of several decades vintage.

Approximate final mileage was roughly 60 plus miles.



As a group of us were passing through Wetherby this afternoon, we came across an accident involving Bill (Whale). As I understood it, the car had run into him on the roundabout next to the Wharfe bridge. The driver was of a similar age to us, and freely admitted his blame. Bill seemed a bit dazed but insisted on going home and not to hospital. The car driver was to take him. Bill did not seem to be mortally wounded, but the bike was bent. We assisted getting the bike into the car and left. Best wishes Bill for your recovery from this incident. Dave S.

Five Go Touring in the Dales

Day 1

Five riders set off for a tour of the Dales organised by Peter Roberts. Despite the poor weather forecast we set off in high spirits, but soon to be dampened. It was decided to get as many "dry miles" in as we could so the first refreshment stop was at Reeth. While we tucked into soup, rolls and cake the rain made its way towards Reeth. Not only did it start to rain but the wind increased in strength. So now it was a case of donning waterproof (!) gear and do battle with the weather. Peter Roberts was displaying the latest fashion in head protection by the use of a shower cap, don't ask. The ride along Swaledale was done in varying degrees of rainfall from a slight drizzle to horrendous down pours and always accompanied by a strong headwind. On passing Keld Martin succumbed to a puncture, fortunately the rain had abated somewhat so the repair was carried out in relatively dry conditions. The climb out of Swaledale through Birkdale was testing. But this was nothing compared to the descent to Nateby where we encountered the hazards of gusting side winds, and stray suicidal sheep. Fortunately we were warmly greeted by the landlady at The Black Bull, Nateby, who provide baguettes with various fillings and lashings of tea. It was agreed to abandon the loop to Tebay and head directly to Sedbergh. Well as directly as Wheel Easy riders do in such circumstances. From now on and until we reached Sedbergh the weather was kind to us except for one massive downpour which forced us to take shelter for 5 minutes.

On arriving in Sedbergh we were glad to see that Richard Leake had arrived and had delivered our luggage to the hotel. Needless to say we passed a pleasant evening recounting our experiences of the day and putting the world to rights.

Day 2

With a better weather forecast we were looking forward to the return trip, if only we could decide which route to take. Despite this indecision we set off for Dent and then decided we would tackle Newby Head. The ride from Dent through Cowgill and alongside the river was magnificent, and then we had the climb up to Newby Head. The next stop was going to be at Ingleton for refreshments. So we all set off on the mainly downhill stretch to Ingleton passing

Ribblehead viaduct on the way. Some confusion arose as on the way down Peter Roberts and Phil Steel turned off to Chapel Le Dale unbeknown to the rest of us. The route they chose was being resurfaced but this did not hinder them. We all met up at the Bakery at Ingleton including Richard Leake. Most of us elected to gorge ourselves on the cakes but Phil elected to try and eat the "rock" pasty, he failed. We now had another debate as to the exact route to get to Settle. After meandering through Ingleton and getting instruction from two lady cyclists we continued on our way. We seemed to be on course but the Garmins' did not seem to agree. We reached Settle and started our attack on the climb out the town towards Airton safe in the knowledge that it was a 22% climb as measured by Richard Leake. Despite the efforts of the motorist to run us down while doing the climb we all arrived at the Town End farm Shop. Suitably refreshed we were now back on familiar territory returning Harrogate via the well-known route of Hetton, Cracoe, Thorpe, Burnsall, Appletreewick, Stump Cross, and Duck Street.
Peter J





