

Wednesday, August 19, 2009
EG's and Poddlers ride reports



The poddlers ride report is not going to be a regular report but this week we really witnessed something that needed reporting. Twelve peddlers (oh where are all the poddlers gone, everyone has got rather good), turned up at Hornbeam this morning in almost summer sunshine. Tall John had kindly offered to lead the ride and we set off to follow the very scenic route round Knaresborough, and Scriven, and towards Farnham. Thanks to his new power assisted BMW motor bike Paul was managing to keep up really well, and the effects of Andrea's new saddle defies belief...Words and photos cannot describe the sight of her zooming up an extremely steep hill in an extremely sedately manner, overtaking effortlessly, Sue C, Alison, Dennis, John W, Tall John and Max. The look on their faces was one of absolute shock. Watching from the back Lynda, Sue and I could only feel envy and despair, where were we going wrong. She really must win the prize for most improved rider in the shortest time ever.

We continued through Cowthorpe towards Burton Leonard and the MountGarrat Estate to an idyllic valley, small bridge and ford. New mountain bike rider Karen braved the ford and enjoyed a quick paddle whilst the rest of the group tried to manhandle Paul's extremely heavy motor cycle over the bridge. Half the group were nearly wiped out by a low flying Hercules transport plane that looked as if it was going to land on our heads. With the sun beating down we were reunited with the rest of the group and followed the footpath into Ripley, where we split into cafe stoppers and home for lunchers....Dennis leading the group home, as he had a 40 mile stroll in the dales planned for the afternoon. The cafe stoppers fought with tourists and wasps and eventually tucked into toasted teacakes, crumpets and sandwiches. Paul and Skipton Lynda entertained us with an unusual version of the charlston, brought on by a flurry of wasps attacking their toasted teacakes.

Paul and Andrea left us to go shopping and the remaining riders slightly shell shocked

returned to Hornbeam via the backstreets of Harrogate. Thank you John for leading us on such a lovely ride at such a good well suited pace. CG

A bright sunny day at Low Bridge with the "Magnificent Seven" Bill W, Dave P, Eric, John, Norman (back from the CTC birthday rides), Peter B and Roy. The last few rides had headed in a North Easterly direction so today a South Westerly route was chosen.

Firstly it was on to Wetherby to Morrisons cafe for coffee, tea and cake. On the way DP was stung on the lip by a wasp, so at Wetherby it was coffee, doughnut and anti -histamine tablet (from Boots) for break. It was suggested by the EG`s that half a "fat lip" was an improvement to his looks and that a further "smack in the face" at the other side would balance the effect, and give even further improvement.

Then on to Collingham, crossing the River Wharfe and climbing on to the ridge at Thorner, then Shadwell and on to Alwoodly (sometimes known to "Loiners" as "Millionaires Row"). Then on to Five Lanes End and Bramhope where Sandwiches, Pies and drinks etc were purchased from the village shop. A very pleasant break was taken sitting outside Bramhope Cricket Pavilion enjoying the sunshine and the views.

The route was then along the Chevin at a slowish pace to admire the magnificent views of both Wharfedale and Airedale. It was then past "The Royal" pub and the steep descent down Chevin End to Otley and onto the Wharfe View Cafe for tea/coffee and a communal bowl of chips. It was here that we lost Roy, this was unfortunate because he had been promised "chips" in Otley, his share was consumed and Eric was also seen attacking a "Desperate Dan" sized bacon and cheese burger.

It was thought that Roy would be eating in Otley, so after our break DP and Norman took the flat route to look in the garden Centre Cafe for Roy. The remainder returned to Harrogate via some "lumpy bits" (the King of the Mountains shirt is still in contention) At the Garden Centre Roy`s bike could be seen so there was a short reunion in the Cafe before continuing to Pool, Weeton and Kirkby Overblow and a welcome ice-cream at the village shop.

Beautiful cycling weather , great views, mileage approx 51to 53 miles door to door. DP

