

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Wednesday Rides



Ten Poddlers and 5 Wednesday Riders met at Hornbeam in slight drizzle and all set off to Low Bridge to meet three of the EG's where we had a team photo. Paul S slipped and fell at the bridge, a reminder to us all to take great care with slippery roads, leaves etc. Hope you are ok Paul! The rain had stopped so all was well.

Poddlers Ride Report

Here is the ride report for the poddler's ride Wednesday 21st October 2009. Not a good morning to get up and get out and about. Too wet too damp too cold. However as soon as we reached Hornbeam the day seemed to mellow, and it was not the yellow sun tinted glasses. People arrived, looking keen and enthusiastic, raring to get poddling. The super groupers did not seem quite so raring, however, the poddlers untangled themselves and we set off, only to be tangled up with blobs of super cyclists all the way to Low Bridge. Paul the Rambler was so joyous to be back on his bike after a break, he tried to fling himself over Low Bridge Knaresborough into the Nidd, the rest of us arrived almost unscathed despite the unravelling. The poddlers ever ready to clock up their milage, decided against a cafe stop at this point, even though the EGs and the Super Groupers looked as if Knaresborough was going to be the first cafe stop of the day, and set off purposefully, as we had miles to eat not cakes.

Out of Knaresborough we charged, up through Farnham (thank goodness Crawford was not with us, he could not have coped with Farnham again), passed the best cattery in the area, towards the Boroughbridge turn off. As we sped off towards Boroughbridge, we noticed Martin and Yvonne doing some sort of striptease in a gateway, we did not like to asked what one earth they were up to. Probably looking for another cafe stop. Lynda and Pete, left us at the turn off just before Staveley to loop round via Copgrove, back home before Pete's batttery gave out and Lynda having to pull him home to Pannal. Seven continued to the

Morrisons toilets, where let me assure anyone who might be wondering, the ride leader did say it could be a cafe stop. Of course being Poddlers noone wanted to eat anything but the miles along the road, so we progressed to the Roecliffe turn off and away from the cafes of Boroughbridge, towards Bishop Monkton. The route was beautiful - orange, yellow, golden light, earthy damp scents, solid unmoving air, a perfect day for cycling. Giving people ample opportunity to divert to Copgrove down the little track, was unnecessary, as everyone wanted to go to Bishop Monkton before turning home towards Knaresborough. Sue W. seemed to be powered with some sort of rocket fuel, and she led the way (closely followed by Allison) tirelessly up the hills, passed a mushroom patch, back to the road down to Knaresborough (is it Quarry Lane?). At this point it was decided who was going which way in Knaresborough, and all listened enviously as Dennis put in the order for lunch in half an hour via the mobile phone to Mrs Dennis. Three sped off up the main road their various lunch dates, Max included? The four remaining Poddlers ambled round the Bar Lane Loop and admired a lake absolutely teeming with bird life. Paul sensibly chickened out of the ascent of Calcutt, and wisely chose Beryl. As we entered Morrisons, to cut through to Woodlands, Silly Susan and Stupid Caroline (we know these are our names as the woman who nearly ploughed us down, told Sue she was the silliest woman she had ever seen, and me I was stupid stupid stupid, and I had been in her blind spot and she saw one cyclist, when I tried to explain to her that she should be more careful when reversing a big black bus car and that there were three of us) avoided death, and sensible Sue W. kept her mouth shut and did not get involved. We all returned home to our various delicious lunches at a reasonable time, after three and a half hours of Poddling, having avoided all temptations, and eaten up 32 miles of lovely flattish roads. Back to twenty next week! CG

Wheel Easy Report

We set a good pace to Ripon using the Littlethorpe Road to access the bypass which makes for a more pleasant route and a safer crossing.

In Ripon we eschewed Spa Gardens to try the Bistro café near the Minster. Bad idea! Oh well we usually get our coffee stops right.

We met briefly with the EG's at North Bridge and thought they were coming to Wath with us (say that quickly!) but they peeled off somewhere and we didn't see them again. Martin, Yvonne, Paul T, Malcolm and Gia sped up to Snape where Paul and Malcolm dived in to the fruit and veg and fish shop, then caught up with the others for lunch at Thorp Perrow. By the time we left there was steady drizzle but we made it back to Harrogate in good time. 64 quick miles. Gia

EG's Ride Report

Three EG`s met at Low Bridge. Roy was absent due to a date, Terry was down with a bug, and Bill had an hospital appointment (our best wishes go to Bill and Janice). We were soon met by Martin leading a group from Hornbeam however before long we were overwhelmed with Poddlers led by Caroline.

What's the collective noun for Poddle ? how about a "Pod" of Poddlers no doubt Caroline could come back with one for the EG`s eg "A Gaggle of Geezers". Martin's group left for Ripon with the option of continuing on to Thorpe Perrow. The EG`s waited for any late arrivals then followed on to Ripon.

Tea was taken at the Spa Cafe as Norman needed to pay a deposit on Christmas Lunches for Rosemary`s Book Group, who will be lunching the same day as Wheeleasy. So we may have readings from Mickey Spillane or Barbara Cartland to entertain us.

DW suggested they should perhaps be put in the play area, Norman promised not to mention this to Rosemary. Otherwise you are dead DW.

Martin`s group was met just before the Hutton Conyers road. Due to an EG needing to be back early we could not ride with Martin to Thorpe Perrow so it was planned to leave Martin at Wath and head back to Borobridge via Asenby, however in a "senior moment" DP turned off at Hutton Conyers only to have to retrace the route back to Wath and it didn't finish there. After having soup, bacon and egg sandwich plus cakes in Borobridges top cafe the EG`s set off back to Harrogate only DP had left his waterproof in the cafe. Senior moments are OK now and again, lucid moments would be more welcome.

A dull day but the rain when it came was light. Total miles for the EG`s approx 50. Dave P