

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

## Wednesday Rides



Poddlers

Ride

Report

Following a noteworthy rendition of "Happy Birthday" to our very boyish sexagenarian, Malcolm, 12 Poddlers set forth on a 21.5 excursion. The route taken involved the approved Beckwithshaw highway and thence to Little Almscliffe where a majestic plume was seen emerging from somewhere near the Conference Centre - great was the consternation and many were the theories. Having turned toward the Sun Inn at Fewston, the "Great Fire" became lost in the confusion of one rider losing a shoe, a gathering of heroes to assist a struggling damsel and, worst of all, the unseating of our very welcome new rider Dave Griffin. In one fell swoop, we Poddlers were treated to a pantomime starring Polly Flinders, Cinderella, Snow White and the Seven (at least) Dwarves and Humpty Dumpty. All in the spirit of Wheel Easy - noone hurt. Having crossed an amazingly quiet A59, the choice of Forest Moor/Thornthwaite and on or Hampsthwaite and home for lunch was offered and the latter agreed upon. Caroline and John then set the pace to Hampsthwaite where bananas and other comestibles appeared from pockets and bags and were consumed 'neath the spreading chestnut tree on the green. Hollins Hill was quickly scaled and having crossed the ford on Knox Lane, Dennis led via Tennyson Avenue and onto the Bilton Cycle Path which meant avoiding main roads and heavy traffic. As Ploddlers dispersed to their various lunch dates and venues, they all reported their individual departures which is always very useful. Thank you for being excellent companions and here's to next Wednesday's tasty tarts at Timble - and scones and shortbread. Sue

Click on slide show for all today's photos

Wheel

Easy

Ride

Report

Despite instructions not to announce the Bus Pass birthday of our illustrious leader we all disobeyed and sang Happy Birthday as Malcolm cruised in well in time today! Sue Downes was leading a tasty hilly ride with the Poddlers while the rest of us were more

concerned with coffee stops. Sue C decided she wanted views, which meant hills so we chose a long hilly route heading for Boroughbridge via Hampsthwaite, Shaw Mills and Fountains Abbey. Arriving there we let the birthday boy choose to go to the Visitor Centre for coffee before the lovely swoop down through the deer park. Malcolm, Ben, William and Sue C then headed straight back to Harrogate while Gia, Kevin, Paul T, Jon and Angela rode via Ripon and Skelton to Boroughbridge for lunch. We all had their delicious celery and blue cheese soup. Angela who confessed that she sometimes rides with another group redeemed herself by telling us about a new café in the town which is open on Sundays. We went to have a look at The Laden Table which was very welcoming, very spacious and we had to be very disciplined not to have a third café stop. We had a good ride back through Minskip where the sun came out and up the hill to Knaresborough. about 40 miles x 5 and 35 miles x 4 Gia

EG's Ride Report  
 A good turn out at Low Bridge. Twelve riders all together including a relative newcomer John Eaton. York was decided as the destination as we had not "done it" for a while. The route taken was Wetherby (missing out Morrisons cafe) whatever next! and on to Tadcaster via Thorpe Arch and Clifford to take tea and toasted teacakes at Tykes Tea Rooms in Tadcaster (thats a lot of T`s). After tea John Russell returned to Harrogate for an appointment with his mistresses, (in the school sense of course). Then on to York via Bolton Percy and Acaster Malbis picking up the Selby /York cycle path to take us into York. Tea and snacks being taken at the cafe in Rountrees Park. Eric then left us for a date with some old boilers including a Duchess at the National Railway Museum. Soon we were on our way North on the cycle route out of York, a phone call to Eric to let him know and he soon caught us up near Overton. Approaching Beningborough Hall we were left by Colin, Dennis and John Eaton who went North for a fast blast. After more Tea, Coffee and Cake at Home Farm Shop (the EG`s don`t count calories) it was homeward bound via Aldwark Bridge, near Farnham we were caught up by John Eaton who was actually doing a 10 mile time trial that evening (now thats a dedicated cyclist). An excellent cycle ride both weather and wind being kind to us, approx mileage bridge to bridge around 54 miles but most cyclists would have done between 60 to 66 miles. Dave P

Evening Ride Report  
 It was an overcast grey evening which threatened rain for the first Wednesday evening ride of the "summer". I wasn't sure that anyone else would turn up, but by 6.30 there were another 4 people at Hornbeam Park. One of the group opted to head off at her own pace - so any more medium pace riders out there, why not give it a try next week.... The rest of us did a fairly brisk paced ride of around 18 miles out to Almscliffe Crag & back via Huby, Weeton, and Dunkeswick & Kirby Overblow. Jill

2010	Wheel	Easy	Miles	(approx)	Today	1378	YTD	40372
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