



Poddlers Ride Report

Team Poddle set off from Hornbeam, having agreed to follow a route shown to us by Dennis last June. 14 poddlers soon arrived at Low Bridge and thence to Chain Lane. Here, John W. showed us a 'Crawford loop' that neatly links Chain Lane and Halfpenny Lane. Then, we headed for Bishop Monkton by the usual route. By this time, we were battling with a fierce head wind and surveying ominous clouds over the 'White Horse'. At this point, Max, still getting over a 'bug', decided to return home. The rest of us gritted our teeth and were soon at Littlethorpe. From here, after a short busy stretch by the racecourse we headed towards Newby Hall and then Boroughbridge. We scooted along quiet roads with the wind helping us. At Boroughbridge we resisted the lure of a cafe stop and poddled on towards Harrogate. Those who needed to be back sped off. The rest of us followed at a more leisurely pace to Harrogate and went our separate ways. Lovely ride, great team! Thanks to Dennis for acting as route consultant/co-leader, Caroline as director of photography and Dave G. and Steve as 'rearguard'. 13 X 34 miles & Max's 14ish[?] Alison

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Wheel Easy Ride Report

Tony Rides Off into the Sunset (well actually the Yorkshire Sleet!) - As Tony is leaving for the sunnier climes of Staffordshire everyone thought it would be a good idea to ask him what he fancied for his last Wheel Easy Ride. His memories of his first ride with Wheel Easy were to ride up to Darley then over the moors and down Yorke's Folly and into Pateley Bridge. So he elected to do that ride again and we all

thought "What a great idea for mid-January". But obligations are obligations and we headed off up Nidderdale. Killinghall, Hampsthwaite and Birstwith were fine with patches of bright sky but at Darley things became drizzly, and despite the wise council of one rider the group refused a stop at Darley Mill and headed off up to Dacre Top and Heyshaw Moor. Glynn and Steven left us for an early return while the remaining nine headed up and up into the wind and rain, turning eventually to sleet. The drop down Yorke's Folly was awesome, or nerve racking depending on your point of view, and we arrived at the new Tea Room at the entrance to Pateley Bridge Cattle Mart. This café is a gem. Set up for Yorkshire Farmers at the Auction Mart it serves good food at down to earth prices. There was even Rabbit in Wine Sauce on offer at £5;6.50. Yvonne and I were well stuffed for £5;8 total and with our appetites that has to be a bargain.

Enthusiasm for a longer ride was a little muted by now so we opted for the "easy" way home via Glasshouses Bridge, Summerbridge, the Toll bridge, Birstwith and Hampsthwaite. The roads were drying a bit by Harrogate, making a good end to quite an adventure. Best wishes to Tony and his wife for the move to Staffordshire, but he may be with us for another week if his drains in the new house aren't unblocked! Mileage Estimate $9 \times 35 + 2 \times 30 = 375$. Martin W

EG's Ride Report

It began as a cold cloudy day, (one forecast suggesting sleet towards the end of the day) and remained so. On the way down to Low Bridge a good number of Wheel Easy could be seen in Hornbeam Car Park.

At Low Bridge whilst waiting for a full complement we were joined by the Poddlers, some who like DP were recovering from Sundays "lumpy" ride, they obviously like the EG`s were heading for the "flat lands of Yorkshire". Today we had eleven riders, just enough for a cricket team, Bill W, Colin (first ride of the new year), Dave P, Dave W, Eric, John E, John R, Peter B, Rob (a new rider), Roy and Terry (with the jokes). The destination chosen was Tadcaster so it was out to Little Ribston and Cowthorpe, (on the way Eric informed how good the curry nights were at Wetherspoons, this had something to do with short skirts and stockings, causing a few EG`s to wobble on their bikes). Then down Rudgate, where the Romans used to go "sinister dexter sinister dexter" to Wighill and Tykes Tadcaster Tearooms. Here a problem developed, the Tearooms were bulging at the seams with cyclists. Five EG`s managed to squeeze in, the remaining six put off by all that sweaty Lycra found a nice little Italian Cafe on Bridge Street, after first checking out some pubs. They served excellent filter coffee that came with tasty home made biscotti, but we were told we could not have the recipe because if we did the chef would have to kill us. After a photo was taken an EG who shall be anonymous but his initials are DP, could not find his camera, Eric very logically took us through our previous actions but to no avail, it refused to be found. It was only when said EG was stripping for a shower the camera came to light, ie at his right extremity (no this was not where prisoners keep their mobiles but at his ankle). How had this happened? answers on a postcard. We need a young carer in our group, can we have Bridget in exchange for Terry (who does a good line in jokes).

Eric and Peter B left us to ride to York, what is it about York for these two, is it the chocolate or are they like Dick Turpin seeking an alibi. The remainder headed for Bramham and then the cycle path to Wetherby, here Dave W and John E turned off for Wetherby , and the rest headed for Harrogate via Sicklinghall and Kirkby Overblow.

It had been a good days cycling, it had not rained and the wind had been thoughtful in its choice of direction. Mileage say 9×40 miles = 360 miles plus two at say 68 ? = 136 miles. Dave P

2011 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 1327 YTD 9513



