



### Poddlers Ride Report

The first ride of a new era of self led rides started with giving out the 'table', (which hopefully will be filled in with lots of ride leader offers). The first leader of the new era, Sur John told us his plan for the morning and true to form, having waited for Max to get out of bed and Skipton Lynda to cross Harrogate in horrendous traffic, we surged off at a pace, leaving the Batz still pondering on where to go in a morning of steadily worsening weather. We eventually reached Knox Bridge and realised there were still 14 riders in the group and we would need to ride in two groups towards Ripley and the Ripon Road turn off to Nidd. A couple of slight hiccoughs occurred when Kevin noticed that he had picked up some thorns in Crawford's Couloir, and had to nip home and change two tyres, which he did in seven minutes. The other was when one rider threw herself off her bike in the middle of the road, trying to avoid running up the backside of another rider who had dismounted, trying to avoid a car. The traffic politely waited for us to gather ourselves together and get out of their way, and on our ways. For a change we were led through the Mount Garrett estates towards Burton Leonard. The stream was easily crossed with the aid of several strong men and after a quick banana break at the cross roads to Burton Leonard, Richard left us, pink tulle and sequins showering from his saddle bag as he hurried home to his dance date. We headed homewards via Copgrove, the outskirts of Farnham, Sandy Lane towards Knaresborough where we divided into two groups.....the scenic group and the main road group who were keen to get home before the sun went in. The scenic group then toured the lakes and observed the bird life of Knaresborough and ascended the col of Calcutt without accident and hot wheeled it through Morrison's to split again into two groups for the Stray and Hornbeam directions. Thank you Sur John for being the first leader of the new era, a great ride. I look forward to lots more. 7 x 24miles, 5 x 23, 1 x 22, 1 x 20. CG

Click on slide show for all today's photos

### Wheel Easy Ride Report

There was only a small group of 6 as we set off from Hornbeam towards Easingwold. We were joined for the first time by Jon who is involved with Sustrans. Dave left us at Low Bridge to join up with the EG's.

As we left Knaresborough the rain started and as we approached Great Ouseburn we decided to shorten the ride and head to the Laden Table at Boroughbridge for a much needed coffee. At this stage I panicked as I thought we were going to be asked to leave my favourite café due to Steve being covered in mud ( just look at the photo of his chair, a result of no mudguards).

By now the weather had improved so instead of heading back to Harrogate we continued to Brafferton, Helperby, Flatwith and Aldwark. Although it felt like a 'mystery tour' we were reassured that Yvonne had a map and Jon had a very impressive app on his phone. At Great Ouseburn we were all in need of refreshments so we stopped at the local post office and bought cakes, chocolate, sausage rolls and pies. The unexpected highlight of the day was being invited back to Steve and Sally's home for tea and coffee. We suggested this would make a great café stop for Wheel Easy as they pass through Great Ouseburn but we were all sworn to secrecy before we left. Feeling fully refreshed we returned to Harrogate in record time having cycled 48 miles. It was a great ride and a big thank you to Steve. Paul

### EG's Ride Report

We had a dozen riders at Low Bridge, not a bad turn out considering last weeks ride weather and the route that Eric the Mad had taken them, also missing their home by time to comply with their ASBO`s. Now that sanity was in charge (with a little included dementia) the route chosen was to Easingwold and the flat lands of Yorkshire. Soon we were winging our way to Farnham and Minskip in good cycling order, the noise of the conversation soon drowning out the humming of the wheels on the tarmac. This phenomenon has also been observed at an Autumn Tints meet when the deaf raise their voices causing everybody to raise theirs till the total noise level exceeds the public health limit. At Boroughbridge without a word of command the peloton came to a halt and the noise ceased, the unasked question was, are we stopping for caffeine and calories? The expectant looks on faces of the EG`s brought tears to ones eyes, how could they be refused. So as not to cause cafe shock half went to the top cafe and half entered the hallowed grounds of Morrisons. Here Eric had a meatless breakfast (I`m a bit rusty on these things but I`m sure it's not Lent yet) anyway it was a miniscule affair of beans, egg, mushrooms, tomato, and toast. Soon we were in downtown Boroughbridge where whipping in began the last rider out of the Top Cafe had his name taken, here Dave R left us to head for Ripon .

Soon we were crossing the borough bridge heading for Brafferton and Easingwold in good order, in good weather and in a kindly wind. Lunch was taken at Temptations Restaurant (hold on to that word).Used to be Restaurant 21. After lunch a photo was taken. Camera was taken very carefully out of rear pocket, operated, and very carefully put back in same rear pocket. Eric and Peter B like Neville Chamberlin have a piece of paper that entitles them to take the p...out of Dave P for one month, and they will use it. As reported DP actually left the country but a text from PB stating " you can run but you can`t hide" made him realise it was futile and he returned. Before leaving we were told by a lady resident how much she appreciated cyclists visiting them as it brought new faces into their world , which was nice as we ain`t pretty.

The lady was told some of us were only waiting for the installation of lock up bike sheds then we might move in. Well said the lady you can always share my room if you like. (Temptations Cafe?) For once the EG`s were stuck for a reply. Fortunately the offer was made to a good living lad, but what if it had been made to one of our naughty lads, one who fortunately was missing at the time, but who has been known to be picked up on security cameras, taken home in police cars and being asked to leave Wetherspoons, though to be fair it was long after chucking out time.

Then the eleven (with no twelfth man).Bill W, Colin, Dave P, Dave W, Eric, John E, John R, Norman, Peter J, Rob and Terry headed for Aldwark Bridge past flooded fields to take a banana break at Branton Green. Here another photo was taken, said camera taken from rear pocket, said camera operated, said

camera replaced in rear pocket, how long must this go on?, I need therapy.  
On to Marton cum Grafton, Arkendale, Knaresborough and finally Harrogate. It had been a good ride (with a lotta laughs) in good weather for February with a total mileage of around 11 x 48 miles approx = 528 miles. But the final comment comes from Eric who said on approaching Harlow Hill. "Gosh home before dark, Di will be surprised". Dave P

2011 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 1141 YTD 15817



