



Poddlers Ride Report

Today felt like a day to 'go up in the world'. So 13 Poddlers soon reached the summit of Brackenthwaite Lane. It was well worth the effort. From then on we had lovely views around as we pedalled along to the top of Stainburn and Almscliff Crag. Here we had a photo call while the usual suspects sorted out Linda's bike. From there we sped down to Hubyard across the main road to Weeton and Dunkeswick. Here, Glynn left us to return to Leeds. The rest of us negotiated yet another busy road to head for Kirkby Overblow, and Ridding Park. Everyone dispersed at the Traveller's Rest. Some of us introduced new rider Michelle to the delights of the Showground hill as a final challenge. Slightly shorter than sometimes, but open with lovely views. Miles 12 X 20 + Glynn 3???. Alison

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Wheel Easy Ride Report

After yesterday's sunshine it felt quite raw cold this morning as ten of us worked out a direction with a good cafe. We settled on going north to Knaresborough, Farnham, Bishop Monkton, Littlethorpe, Ripon Racecourse, Skelton-on-Ure and then Boroughbridge for that warming cup at the Laden Table, The pace was brisk as it was so cold no-one wanted to hang about, and we were soon in the cafe. The debate on where to go next then took a while with options evaluated, reconsidered and reviewed, but the majority headed along the delightful back road through the Dunsforths to Great Ouseburn and Whixley. Angela was having an entertaining ride with her SPDs rusted up making release from her pedals entertaining for us, if a bit scary for her! The agricultural workshop at Whixley succumbed to her

charms and the pedals were soon fixed with smiles all round and we were off once again heading along the lanes and down to Walshford before returning home via Spofforth and Follifoot. And the sun came out and warmed things up - just as we got back to Harrogate. 9×47 miles and 3×35 miles = 528 miles. Martin W

EG's Ride Report

Though Wednesday was not as sunny as Tuesday it was still dry but cold. On the way down to Low Bridge a Pod of Podlers was hailed on Oatlands Drive, the usual cheery greetings before continuing (it was cold) to Low Bridge for the gathering. Soon we were joined by Martin with Wheel Easy Wednesdays who were heading north to Ripon, after their departure the EG`s waited for a full team. There was a welcome back for Roy and Peter B who had missed a few weeks of playing out, and of course PB had missed a few chances of taking the p.. out of DP ref a certain camera, however the purloining of Eric's satnav in Wetherspoons for a short period got a similar reaction from Eric as the one from DP. We had eleven riders and awaited our twelfth man (Eric) where was he ?. Dave P struggling with modern technology phoned him, only to find him stood behind him, he must have had a teleporting phone. Rob expressed a desire to go to Otley, the rest expressed a desire to get to a cafe and out of the cold. So it was on to Wetherby , the road being rather busy the twelve EG`s split into two groups of six (now thats maths for you) and on to Morrisons.

After hot drinks, snacks and a good moan roll call was taken in the shopping area, assembly was difficult as some EG`s were again on the pull with some Mature Ladies. Here Norman and Terry left us to head north up the old A1 to Boroughbridge, and one would assume a hot date at the Top Cafe. The rest headed for Sicklinghall and the big swoop down to Netherby (on a clear dry road) on the way to Weeton a large Red Kite flew low overhead, but as we were on the flat and not hill climbing, so non of us seemed likely to expire, it flew away. Coming in to Otley, Bill and Roy opted for the Garden Centre, and dainty snacks, Rob was herded towards Dunnies. This was part of his American trip training, not only on various types of food but encounters with wild animals as some of the clientele could be more scary than grizzly bears. Tea and Cholesterol times eight was ordered, Eric being on a diet had cheeseburger and half a portion of chips, we knew it was half a portion because he could see over the top of his plate. The subject of cycling competitions was raised, could we raise an EG`s pursuit team, but who would sponsor us? This was a problem, in fact the only one we could think of might be an incontinence pants manufacturer. Then it was over the Wharfe and on to Weston and Askwith and the hill (how did that get past the censor), so there was no choice but to granny gear it, close ones eyes, think of England and wind away. On the summit the EG`s King of the Mountains team could be seen resting, the way they shot up the hill they could have well been sponsored by a Laxative Manufacturer. The sun was now beginning to show making a pleasant swoop down to Swinty car park and a comfort break, actually chocolate break by courtesy of John R as we sat in the sun.

The ten riders Bill, Dave P, Dave W, Eric, John E, John R, Peter B, Peter J, Rob and Roy climbed out of the Washburn Valley, Peter B heading for Menwith the rest to Beckwithshaw before dispersing to make their separate ways home. The weather was not as good as yesterday but still good being dry and cold. Mileage say $10 \times 44 = 440$ miles (now thats easy maths) guessing $2 \times 34 = 68$. Dave P

2011 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 1296 YTD 24694



