



Poddlers Ride Report. The winds of change...

Despite being told by my neighbour's roofers that a storm was imminent, I held with the plan to take a perfect poddling pace via Little Almscliffe, Menwith Hill and Kettlesing. One of the reasons was that a pre-poddlie recce showed that the western end of Penny Pot Lane was open thus allowing for a return via The Black Bull. Given the amount of preparation and planning, I was not going to give in to wind. Knowing the amazing determination and guts of my trusty followers, there was great confidence in our ability to face whatever blowing about was to face us. Alas, by the time the hurricane-like eddies of Whinney Lane had almost blown us into The Squinting Cat, decisions had to be made. Sur-John speaking from a safety point of view was not happy and Richard had to be home by noon. Kev was very supportive of any change so long as it didn't include Little Almscliffe!

This is where my lack of geography and meteorology re hills and gusts showed appallingly so I was very grateful when Richard offered a few solutions like two dead end lanes. Now known as P(ugh)-routes, we hurtled along Lady Lane down Howghill Quarry Lane and A N other both leading to magnificent houses and views. There were a couple of minor hills just to test the gears and then we turned back and shot into Burn Bridge and thence to Yew Tree Lane where more decisions were made - John, Kev, John W (who had developed a mechanical fault) and Dennis were obviously smelling coffee and took off to their various kettles.

That left Madame Michelle (la tres jeune et jolie* professeur de Caroline, Yvonne et moi), Richard and self. Given that Liz may not have polished Richard's this afternoon's dancing shoes, he once again produced a P-route via Kirby Overblow, Rudding Lane and home. Thank you, Richard, for superb commandeering BUT we will do the planned 25 in time...Maximum recorded mileage 18. Sue D * and patient

Click on slide show for all today's photos

Wheel Easy Ride Report

We threatened Martin with a trip to Tadcaster as Gia had missed last Sunday's ride but he quite rightly overruled us and planned a trip to Ripon. This was to avoid the forecast of westerly winds and on Sandy Delft's advice that we should try The Wakeman's Café in the square at Ripon and it didn't disappoint. Angela drank gallons of tea allowing Dave R to share some of her pot and we all enjoyed generous scones, cream and jam.

Onwards and upwards through the Deer Park for a photo stop at the church, which Sandy explained is a sister church to the one at Newby Hall. After Fountains we took the route to the Drovers where Paul, Sue and Bridget headed back home while Martin, Dave, Yvonne, Gia, Angela and Sandy headed for Hampsthwaite. Dave then left us while the rest of us had our second café stop and indeed lunch at Sophie's in Hampsthwaite. There we met one of our favourite "waitresses" formerly of Sticky Wicket which sadly is unlikely to open this year.

Speedo temperamental but we reckon about 40 miles x 6 and 35 x 3

Weather held out, mostly sunny and a good ride with a few hills! Gia

EG's Ride Report

No Poddlers could be seen on the ride down to Low Bridge, however the early EG`s were soon joined by Martin leading the Wheel Easy Wednesdays, after assembly they were soon on their way. The EG`s waiting till the stroke of 10-00am by which time we had eight riders, a few less than usual but messages had been received from their Mums asking to be excused from physical activity. The number eight does not usually cause Cafe Chaos, however walking in to an empty cafe and hearing the word " we have loads of cyclists coming in" makes you wonder.

The route taken was to Aldwark Bridge via Great Ouseburn under a clear blue sky with a following wind. Ah said the pessimists we will suffer for this later when we change direction, ah said the optimist the wind might drop or change to favour us, as usual the pessimists were the better forecasters. Before we knew it there was Beningbrough Home Farm Shop with its coffee and large pieces of creamy cakes, however as lunch was to be taken at Temptations Restaurant in Easingwold the steely determination and self control of the EG`s took over (for once) and flapjack or toasted teacakes were seen on plates. After a chat with a York Wednesday Wheeler who had done some serious crossing of the USA (point of interest for Rob) we headed North to Tollerton in the wind, here a Chris Delf under full sail was seen heading South. Approaching Huby a rider was heard to say Huby? are we near Otley?, perhaps when in the USA on approaching Boston he may say Boston? are we in Lincolnshire?.

The head wind made it a long 3 miles in to Easingwold but Peter B manfully pushed the wind for us. At Temptations Restaurant Dave W was sent ahead to book a table for eight complete with Hostesses, however we had timed it right and it was past their peak time, so the Restaurant was almost empty, this meant all the carefully prepared chat up lines could not be used. After lunch the weather looked bad over towards Boroughbridge and looked to be moving in a north easterly direction, so it was decided to head directly to Boroughbridge.

Before Raskelf the slight rain had turned to sleet/hail not nice with a head wind, this soon passed but the wind did not. On to Brafferton and Boroughbridge here Bill and Eric did sterling work pushing the wind, at this time where was our time trial champion? somewhere halfwheeling in the rear (all together now Shame).In Boroughbridge (again) Eric took us to the Laden Table as we all know open 7 days a week, and again it was not, as John E remarked Unladen again. So where now, you guessed it Morrisons for afternoon tea. As Caroline would say the EG`s on a cafe crawl again. Beside tea and cakes a few phone calls were made for people to get their pass outs extended. Then it was back to Harrogate in reasonably good weather.

Total mileage 8 riders x 59 miles average = 472 miles. Dave P

2011 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 943 YTD 28835



