



Poddlers Ride Report

After 1600 feet of climbing in the fog last Wednesday, the Poddlers opted for a flatter ride with all day sunshine this week. 14 set off from Hornbeam and with warnings about keeping in small groups we swooped down to Low Bridge and then on to Little Ribston and Cowthorpe. On to Tockwith where Dennis lead off a party of 4 who had various lunchtime appointments. The rest of us went on to Marston Moor where we had a break at the monument and soaked up the sunshine. There was already a lone cyclist on a beautiful sage green fixed wheel bike sat there but he did not seem to mind the invasion and even acted as photographer. Refreshed we continued to Askham Richard where none of the ladies seemed to think they needed to return to the institution there! The duck pond was admired and then the leader turned down Mill Lane and despite it being rough no-one refused to follow despite a few mutterings! Soon civilisation was resumed as we reached the road again (it was a short cut honest!) and is was past the beautiful Healaugh church where Crawford's chain fell off but was speedily replaced by Steve, and through Wighill. We entered the maze at Thorpe Arch but after getting ourselves lost Crawford valiantly lead us safely to the old rail track and we swooped down into Wetherby. On the old rail track to Spofforth Crawford's chain fell off again but Steve was not quick enough. When it was tentatively suggested that our coffee stop should be at the Sam Smiths pub at Follifoot there was a stampede through Spofforth and the Poddlers tried to break the world speed record for the Spofforth Follifoot route! Unfortunately Crawford got so excited that he rushed past it never to be seen again. After a sit in the sunshine we left Steve to make his way back to Knaresborough. Did anyone see him leave the pub?. With jellified legs 8 of us struggled up the hills to Harrogate, Linda and Peter fresh from their cruise heading back to Pannal, Mary, Max, FDave and Liz to tackle the heights of the Showground and Caroline to discover the delights of Starbeck. About 40 miles

x 10, 31 x 4. Liz

Click on slide show for all today's photos

Wheel Easy Ride Report

Wednesday is almost becoming Sunday with a throng of people gathered today for the rides. Several riders had chosen a good week to have the day off work and the sun shone continuously and warmly for us all. The hills beckoned especially with Jill in our midst so about 25 of us set off towards Timble. Natural selection prevailed with the quicker riders nowhere to be seen but Jill, Glyn, Steve, Martyn (who had already ridden in from Boroughbridge) Bob and Angela waited until Sue and Gia caught up at Askwith. Martin W led a group to Cockpit Farm including Angela who had come over from York and Michelle who we had kidnapped from the Poddlers.

I am sure William, Richard, Dave R, Dave W, Michael, Julie and goodness knows who else all had a great day but we never saw them again.

Jill led us to Bolton Abbey where we stopped for late breakfast/early lunch then the glorious ride along to Burnsall, Appletreewick then onwards and upwards to Stumps Cross. There she assured us that it was all down hill which to all intents and purposes it was and Sophie's at Hampsthwaite beckoned us for afternoon tea.

A fabulous ride, as Eric says Wonderful Wharfedale and in the spring sunshine it was a treat. 53 miles for 7, Martyn approx 73. Gia

One poorly cyclist started off with Martin, coughed to a stop just after Beckwithshaw, toddled slowly to catch the group at Cockpit, spluttered back to Otley and almost to Kirkby, felt a bit better, turned right to Kearby, couldn't bear to go home as the sun grew warmer, sped on to Wetherby, Spofforth, Waitrose and home, and then distributed election leaflets. 52 miles. Malcolm

Keen to make the most of a superb day five of us, led by Richard on the flats and Michael on the ups seemed to race on from Asquith to Cavendish for late coffee / early lunch congratulating ourselves on the fine vistas. Julie and Dave disappeared in a ploy to get ahead and complained of how long they (like us before the restart) had to wait. Up up up without a break it seemed, to Cold Stones Quarry (Dave had to go home via Duck Street to keep his mileage down) and the great ride down to much needed tea and water refills (crumble recommended, scones not without jam) and back to Dacre where Julie went her own way home while we went over the tollbridge and from Hampsthwaite up West Lane and Penny Pot. Dave the D having enjoyed his first long ride as much as the rest of us. Michael said he too was going home but he looked as if he was ready to do it again but faster. 4 x 53miles, 1 x 50, 3203 feet ave 13mph. Probably like all rides today it was all great. Home to find Poddlers certainly had had a good energetic day. Richard.

[Route Map](#)

EG's Ride Report

Despite my reputation I was cajoled into leading this Wednesday's ride. Ten Wheel Easy E.G.s met at Low Bridge where I spotted them huddled, plotting to seemingly gang up on me. "Where are we going mein leader" I heard Eaton J. utter. Thanks John! So we headed up north at a leisurely pace for Thirsk in, wait for it, SUNNY weather. Stopping off at "Tasty Snacks" in Boroughbridge, most of us enjoyed our first toasted teacake of the day, (sitting outside in the sun for the first time of 2011), the seemingly staple diet of the "lesser spotted E.G. cyclist", although I'm not sure if Norman had his favourite cake instead.

Refreshments concluded we all, including Terry & Norman, set off north through Cundall towards Topcliffe, Eric was suddenly struck with the urge to take a group photo' and dashed off into the distance, shouting for us to slow down whilst he grappled to find his camera. As we approached and adopted our usual "Tour-de-France" pose Norman and I couldn't help but notice that Eric had revealed a new camera in the form of an "inner tube" box. When questioned later, on catching us up, he uttered something about us perhaps not noticing that he had indeed forgotten to bring along his camera and stood on the roadside doing his "David Bailey" impression in the hope we wouldn't spot his con.

However we continued through Dalton, Sowerby and into Thirsk just in time for lunch around 1p.m. enjoying the pleasant warm air and the early blossoming trees.

Lunch was enjoyed at the fish shop in the market square, some riders remaining outdoors to take in some more of the normally elusive sun's rays. Unfortunately it was Normans bad luck to discover that he had a rear wheel puncture, so he dealt with this whilst, in our ignorance we continued to lap up "B.L.T's, Egg & Chips" etc.

Leaving Thirsk we sought out the little used route to Maunby, having bullied John Russell to stick with us since he thought the off road section would dirty his brand new Van Nicholas cycle. Yet another puncture was suffered, this time by Terry. In the time honoured way we pitched in to change the inner-tube and continued to Maunby. Bill Whale, not yet getting the urge to dash off to beat any imaginary fading light, was able to spot the hidden entrance to the track leading to the old railway bridge across the river Swale.

Another brief banana stop was encouraged where Rob, of cross U.S.A. ride fame, decided to launch his favourite choc bar into the river. I still haven't figured out why! Peter suggested we could hang him over the side by his legs to recover his snack but he didn't seem to fancy a human bungy jump. By now Bill had got the bit between his teeth and set off at a pace to beat the setting sun. Our route was intended to follow across the A1 and turn south through Wath to Ripon.

A call went up for yet another break, coffee or otherwise. The Spa Gardens cafe beckoned and we made it just in time as they were beginning to close. However ten thirsty E.G.s soon persuaded them to remain open a little longer. Or was it the prospect of taking yet more of our hard earned pensions?

Setting off home progress was interrupted by the second road closure of the day which we were able to walk/ cycle around. Returning back at Knaresborough John E. and myself waved our goodbyes, thanking everyone for their good company, the remaining E.G.s heading up the hill into Harrogate.

A thoroughly good ride, great weather, plenty of friendly banter, Terry's usual jokes, Norman's hints & tips on cycle mechanics etc. Thanks lads! Who's leading next Wednesday in the absence of our usual Kapitan? (Dave P. - about whom we were chatting on our ride hoping that the pain from his recent knee op. was subsiding & he'd be making a rapid recovery.) Mileage completed:- 2 x 58; 1 x 60; 7 x 68 = 652. Dave

2011 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 1934 YTD 36048

