



Poddlers Ride Report

Twelve gallant Poddlers left Hornbeam intent on exploring the plains and pastures of Kettlesing. However, by the time, we had reached "The Squinting Cat", a degree of uncertainty had set in - this could have been caused by the heavy rain which had increased in intensity after Yew Tree Lane. "Terrifying Trevor" (he of supermodel fame) was threatening to report my unsatisfactory leadership to Gia - something to do with inclement conditions and further black clouds looming over the planned route. Dear John completely defused this delicate situation by turning his bike to face the way we'd hurtled from and announced that he was returning post haste to erect a roof over his bees. Bees don't like rain either it seems.

Having viewed the weather forecast with optimism, I had elected the somewhat minimalist approach to dress and awaited the donning of appropriate gear by the more pessimistic (and far more sensible) Poddlers. Trevor was looking glum but gorgeous in his acid yellow attire and thus we set off toward Little Almscliffe. By this time, the rain was abating and somewhat sticky waterproofs were quickly peeled off. Steve had time to eat a banana and Trevor, now looking dashing in stripes, almost smiled. The word "coffee" had started to resonate around the group. Now this is something for which Poddlers are not generally known - being determined to keep going and "get it over with". However, remembering utilitarian principles, the greatest happiness seemed to lie with the majority who, on this occasion, favoured a coffee stop. Not known for my geographical skills or quick thinking, a blinding flash of Gia -inspiration appeared from nowhere - "Sophie's Café", Hampsthwaite. Decision made - no Kettlesing. Phew!

A joyous time we had of it as we toured the highways and byways passing Menwith Hill, Clapham Gate, where a 4x4 driver almost took Glen down on his bonnet and into Hampsthwaite. The planned photo

stop was much enhanced by the little people on the village green. With heavy rain falling, four of our noble group stuck to their schedules and cycled on - very kindly led by Dennis. Trevor had resumed his acid yellow attire...This left seven of us to find cyclists' corner within the lovely interior of "Sophie's" - I think it was new to all of us but what joy and rapture, such were the date and walnut scones and the flapjack washed down with steaming coffee and peppermint tea! A very pleasant lady was persuaded to take a photo of the gourmandising group. Someone suddenly announced that this was a very E G-ish situation. I must say that I had always shied away from the "E" word finding it ageist and non-pc in our all-embracing society but how wrong I've been. Of course, it's EATING Gents (obviously not in the cannibalistic sense) and now we have Poddler EGGs - Eating Guys n Girls. Damascus at Hampsthwaite. We also had great chats and fun and a little bonus - Glen's recipe for Cherry Bakewell Cake. Alison and I promised ourselves an afternoon in the kitchen making date and walnut scones and Glen's gateau. We returned to Harrogate in warm sunshine after what I hope was a pleasant 22 miles at an average speed of 10.3 mph. Thank you to all who came. Sue D

Wheel Easy Ride Report

Café ride for twelve of us led by Martin keen to support a new café opened in Boroughbridge. Paul S used a short cut through Copgrove, Stewart found himself alone in Ripon Spa Gardens, Martin and Yvonne who we thought were ahead were behind and David, Julie and William were there first albeit at a different café. Anyway we sheltered there from the downpour in a café where we could have had a haircut and bought a new dress!!! All very nice. Note, Martin had two croissants! Stewart bravely found his way back to Boroughbridge, the problem being he has got too quick for us! We thought we were all heading back via Minskip but don't know where Julie, David and William went. Nice ride, home in the sunshine 36 miles (more for Stewart) for twelve of us, Gia

EG's Ride Report

It was clear blue skies at 7-00am. By 9-00 am it was clouding over. By 10-00am at Low Bridge it was distinctly threatening Wheel Easy Wednesdayers had left, and as the seven waited for Eric the clouds closed in. There would be a few absentees, but their mums had sent notes, Dave W was in Cheshire, John R had some work plus some pannier practice for the C2C. Roy was in France and was lucky enough to see the finish of stage 4 of the tour. Because of the bad weather forecast it was decided to head for Wetherby and then Otley depending on the weather. Cycling on Abbey Road the heavens opened and down it came like stairods bouncing off the road. The speed with which the EG`s headed for shelter was simply amazing. After the rain had eased off it was on the road to Wetherby, here we encountered dry patches of road. It was decided unanimously to blame Eric for our wetness because if he had been on time we would have been on the dry bits instead of on Abbey Road. However we did manage to make it into Morrisons cafe before the next downpour.

Here it was made known that Peter Bradley could not make the ride as he was cleaning his bike, this simple statement had the effect of making the EG`s pause in their eating and drinking, were their looks due to disbelief or bewilderment or just indigestion ? The rain then eased off and we were on our way to Sicklinghall and Kirkby Overblow then on to Castley and Otley. Here a decision had to be made, had Theo been initiated into eating at Dunnies, no he had not but was quite willing to partake in a cholesterol fest. Bits of blue sky were now showing so lunch was taken on the patio overlooking the river.

Theo was amazed at the prices and seemed to suffer no ill effects, he is now entitled to drink from the EG`s communal bottle of Gaviscon.

A Bradley type bike was seen parked at Dunnies Dave P tried to photograph it but unfortunately his camera battery was flat, Eric also tried but his card was full, so this time there are no photos of the EG`s (for which some are very grateful). By this time black clouds were gathering again. Norman and Terry heading back the way we came, Bill, Dave P, Eric, John E, Peter J and Theo headed for Leathley and Braythorn , the hills and the big black clouds, fortunately for us they blew away as we approached, then came the easy bit into Harrogate.

Theo was again on fixed and was not defeated by any of the hills. Mileage. I think this would be the same for all eight riders say 40 miles
so = 320 miles total. Dave P

2011 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 1016 YTD 92366

