



### Poddlers Ride Report

We welcomed back the "Queen Bee" of the Poddlers group (Caroline) following her spying mission to Russia, changing back from Cossack hat and boots to her normal Wheel-Easy attire. 14 riders using a diverse route out of Harrogate, down to High Bridge then onward via Lingerfield to Arkendale, where Allison and Paul left us to return home.

The remainder continued on to Boroughbridge via Marton cum Grafton and Aldborough. After a short banana stop we continued on to Roecliffe and Copgrove finishing in Knaresborough to make our respective ways home. 12 x 30 miles + 2 x 20. Dennis B.

### Wheel Easy Ride Report

Five of us left Hornbeam for Ilkley via Fewston and Askwith. We stopped to collect Chris in Fewston and he had tea, coffee and goodies ready for us. I realised that I was the only retired member in the group as Debs, Steve, Sarah, Phil and Chris all work. Surely this is not a new government initiative of spending a day with a retired person. I thought it could be as I have been involved in some strange initiatives in the past.

If this was the case, they soon discovered that retirement is just like work. Firstly, decisions have to be made. Which bike should I use? What route do I take? Where should I stop for coffee? Do I have carrot cake or a teacake. Secondly, there are Health and Safety issues to consider as Steve discovered when the table collapsed at 'Avanti's' and he was covered in hot cappuccino's. He now knows Risk Assessments have to be completed before a ride. Thirdly, there are Performance Management targets to be met. We had to ride a minimum of 40 miles in order to complete my weekly target of cycling 115 miles or more. Lastly, the importance of working as a team and supporting each other when obstacles, such as wind and Cockpit Farm being closed, are against you.

We returned home via Otley, Farnley, Lindley and Brackenthwaite Lane to either return to work or plan for work tomorrow. I returned for a short 'snooze' in the conservatory! Paul

The faster none-workers thought it would be possible to leave on the dot and before the Poddlers, but we were accused of a false start. All were leaders at various stages so a route on the hoof. Stainburn then a buffeting wind to Otley via Farnley Park. Too early for Cockpit, (though the door was open Paul), chatted to an upright day tourer from Lancaster who had decided a finish at Ilkley would do him. Not us though. So we bashed on to show Robin, Carter Lane, he just drooled at Hunger Lane but bucked up when we descended Langbar onto lunch at the Anvil at Bolton Abbey and found Julie and Dave had gone the right way and kept far in front. (Dave the D had decided to check the train times from Weeton.) Loup Scar view and a mighty cross wind and seconds at Stump Cross touching 44mph with the wind behind. Robin then told us he had to work tonight so another tea and told it was all down hill home. Tea must have revived them as he and Dave went presumably into the wind and down Duck Street. Julie and Richard went to Bewerley and home, via Ripley woods. 4 x 60, 1 x 40. Next Wed planning an earlier start for a longer ride, all welcome. Richard.

### EG's Ride Report

The Autumn Equinox, sun, no rain, and a chill in the air, winter draws on or in our case leg warmers. Eventually we had a round dozen of EG's at Low Bridge, Peter B had phoned ahead saying he would be late (it was his manservant's day off and he would have to dress himself and make his own brekky), he was told to meet us at Ripon Spa Gardens Cafe. John R had forgot his tool kit, and despite being told that the EG's had more tool kits between them than most bike shops, he went back for it( perhaps he had forgotten to kiss his wife) only to catch us up later. On to Ripon in sun and a following wind, a large Pod of Poddlers were seen on the way. Fear of being beaten to a cafe the EG's kicked hard, but fortunately Dennis B took them away from the directions of cafes (panic over). Refreshment was taken outside in the sunshine at Ripon Spa Gardens after which the timid six Bob, Dave P, Dave S, Norman, Roy and Terry headed back to Harrogate nursing their excuses. The magnificent seven, Colin, DaveW, John E, John R, Peter B, Peter J and Theo headed for Risplith (the unpronounceable) or Torchwood. Eagerly awaiting Dave W's report.

Mileages Timid 6 x 33 = 98 miles. Dave P

Eleven or twelve or was it a bakers dozen, gathered under a threatening sky at our usual meeting point in Knaresborough. The numbers seem to increase by the week! Heading north towards Ripon expecting to meet Peter B at the Sun Parlour in the Spa Gardens, sweeping by the Wednesday Poddlers on the way, and sure enough Peter beat us to the refreshments. Gathering around the table outside, now in warm sunshine, toasted tea cakes, scones, pots of tea quickly served up by the friendly staff, we were rejoined by John R. who'd rapidly returned home from Low Bridge to collect his cycle tools, or was this a ploy for a secret assignation?

Refreshments complete, everybody re-fuelled, several members decided to join Dave P. on a shortened ride, via Boroughbridge, D.P. needing to return home early. The baton was handed over to Dave W. to lead the remaining seven riders on a meandering mystery tour. The clouds still looked threatening and the wind slowly increasing from the south west so we headed north west towards Mickley with that challenging climb up to the Masham road. Everybody made it despite some being forced to give way on the narrow roads to a Fire Wagon approaching from behind. A short break to get our breath back, we then took aim for Kirkby Malzeard. On entering K.M., Colin suggested we try to find the tea room on the High St. with a view to stopping for lunch. The sign for "Rose Lea" was soon spotted and dismounting our respective machines we headed through the door to be welcomed by a large gathering of ladies tucking in to their main course for lunch. John E and John R. declined to dine with us and shot off to return home missing excellent home made soup and, according to Peter J., wonderful lemon drizzle cake. The party of ladies were celebrating one of their groups birthday, don't ask a lady her age, and we all joined in with the birthday song. Departing after lunch we cycled toward Laverton and Grantley. Colin suddenly stopped declaring that he'd left £5;20 on the table at the cafe. Was this just an excuse to return to the ladies at the cafe? The remaining 4 riders were encouraged to carry on. Dave W was by now getting a complex. Was he wearing the wrong deodorant? So many people leaving the fold so to speak. Anyway we continued to Grantley via the steep road across the little bridge up to Low Grantley. Heading for the now infamous Risplith we continued into the headwind along the main road, cutting off left to Sawley and Fountains Abbey. Who should we then see but Colin who exclaimed that he'd not lost the £5;20 after all, but after 200 yards he discovered the notes in his other pocket He then took the wrong turning, taking his own meandering route missing our intended route but coincidentally crossing our path an hour later. We all five now climbed out of Fountains, past the travellers' camp, but turning left for Markington so Theo, on his single gear fixed wheel machine, could miss the very steep drag up to the Bishop Thornton road. We swept down into Ripley where we all parted company to go our own respective ways, completing approximately 48 miles. Total Mileage:- (5 x 35; 2 x 40; 4 x 51; 1 x 48) = 507. David Watson.

2011 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 1585 YTD 131989



