



Poddlers Ride Report

Four years ago the thought of cycling to Brimham Rocks was like the idea of cycling to America is to me today. So having sold calendars, given out ride rotas and decided that it was going to be the last good day for cycling for some time, I surprised myself by actually setting off on a jaunt to Brimham with a band of Poddlers. It was cold and still but pleasant as we headed in a straggle through town down the El Butler backway, and onto Knox. We managed to cross the dangerous Ripon Road without getting anyone killed, and seventeen of us speedily reached Hampsthwaite raring to attack Clint Bank and anything else that looked like a hill. We met a poddler who was recovering from a heart op.who was surveying the views on Clint bank, and lost Kevin of Killinghall and Max who apparently sent a message by several people telling us they were mending tyres in Hampsthwaite. I expected them to catch up by Burnt Yates, where Alison N. and Lynda were going to leave us for Lung Burst Hill, to enable an early return home to nursing and play school duties. Little did we know that John Wood would be making an escape also. By the time we had danced up a variety of hills to Brimham five of the group had now disappeared or escaped. We had a brief modelling and photo shoot, which Max and Kevin K could not miss and so were found, before we hammered (a good cycling word...I have heard the fast boys use) passed Brimham with the ride leader narrowly missing an on coming car on a corner to continue to the start of the downhill stage. It was at this point I noticed Sur John had started shaking and twitching, he was remembering the last time he has surged down this perfect hill.....he began talking me through the whole disturbing experience, and just as he was coming to the point where the ghastly accident had occurred, he had multiple flashbacks, muttering that had it not been for Trevor's fortitude, sunny disposition and stalwart support he would not have made it. Ahead Allison (with two Ls) took her feet from her pedals and it looked as if history was repeating itself, we later

discovered that she was shaking the ice from her toes. Sur John was so traumatised he could not surge off home and needed escorting back to Bilton by Gordon, the other Kevin and Dave G. Having made a glorious group glide down into Ripley, the male contingent roared and Liz and Jen gave Glyn a scornful glance when he mischievously suggest a coffee and cake, as weskidded to a halt at Ripley, mobile phones and other modern communication devices were flashing and pinging, sorting out a variety of lunch dates. Steve P turned homewards to Knaresborough but not before offering kindly to lead a ride which had no leader, Kevin of Killinghall peeled off up his drive and home for lunch, as did everyone else as we finally headed up Knox Lane and back to Harrogate. A very pleasant ride with lovely company thank you.. 14 x 26 miles and 3 x goodness knows what. Caroline G

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Wheel Easy Ride Report

Welcome back to Sue Couture who joined us for a ride to Wetherby, and judging by her smiles Sue is pleased to be back on the bike! A group of both quicker and steadier riders left Hornbeam heading to Wetherby via Kirkby Overblow and Sicklinghall. The fast/slow split soon occurred before we left Harrogate and the getting to Wetherby earlier the quick guys took coffee in the Shambles while the tasty aroma of Costa was too enticing for the steadier riders. After that some of the group returned direct to Harrogate on a cold grey day and another group of us opted for some more miles going via Walshford, Whixley, Thorpe Underwood, Gt Ouseburn, Aldborough and on to Boroughbridge where we enjoyed a steaming bowl of soup before heading home. Approximate mileage 6 x 42 miles + 4 x 25 miles = 352 m. Martin W

EG's Ride Report

Another misty morn at Low Bridge, fortunately the roads were dry, there was no wind to speak of, and best of all no rain. Whilst waiting for muster, Eric caused a few riders to check their watches by arriving at 9-50am. Soon we had sixteen riders ready for the off, with Peter B to catch us up later. Points were deducted from Dave P who text Peter B the route was Taddy via Rudgate but failed to explain where Rudgate was. (its the old Roman Road to Tadcaster, and no, DP was not around during its building). The B6164 is a busy winding road, so the sixteen split up in to numerous small groups eventually converging on Tykes Tea Rooms probably from different directions (our route choices are very flexible). After vast ammounts of toasted tea cakes had been consumed, and lycra covered loins were being girded up Peter B arrived, having taken his morning refreshment in Boston Spa. The seventeen then climbed the ridge to Bramham with the uninitiated being taken to the old folks shelter. A delightful little stop, especially in bad weather. Here Bob left us to return to Knaresborough were he was on Grandad duties. The remaining sixteen again climbing to the ridge before the swoop down to Collingham. At Linton there was a moments indecision regarding heading for Sicklinghall or Wetherby for food and drink, the indecision did not last long and it was in to Morrissions cafe for late lunch. Unusually there was a queue this was put down to what looked like a time and motion study taking place, no matter we were soon tucking in to bacon sandwiches, breakfast omelettes and scrambled eggs, etc. There had been poor reports on the state of the cycle path so the return route was back on the B6164, the group splitting for Knaresborough and Harrogate at Little Ribston. A good winter days cycling, dry and no wind, we have been very lucky with our Wednesdays. Estimated average mileage for 17 riders say 43 miles ie 17 x 43 = 731 miles. Dave P

2011 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 1507 YTD 159470





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