

Wednesday, January 4, 2012

Wednesday Rides



Poddlers Ride Report

El Butler was our designated leader today so we were afraid, very afraid. Rumour has it that prior to his recent transfer from Equipe "Lourde Métal" to Equipe "Velonouvelle" , he had turned down an offer from the great Cav himself to be part of the Sky lead-out train in their Olympiad glory bid 2012. As Cav had explained "not only has El B phenomenal strength and dedication to his team but he has that extra, vital attribute of a built in Sat Nav, not apparent in his younger equipiers and which even team Garmin have failed to develop. We were hoping to use this attribute to knock a few seconds off our time by taking sneaky detours around the Olympic course, ... it's a big loss to us".

Sorry I digress. When we arrived at Hornbeam El Butler was waiting to set off, proudly wearing his cycling ASBO given for his forceful summit challenges on Sunday's ride. Well prepared as ever, he had the route and even the uncanny foresight to have arranged to pick up an extra rider en route which took our number from the fateful 13 to a fabulous 14. At this point I must pause to make an observation (tic). Many of the Poddlers , myself included,

have noticed a slight tardiness of late amongst the Battenburgs. It maybe the effects of the festive seasons or the inclemency of the weather but they have lost their punctuality and numbers of the previous season. We, the Poddlers, are saddened because this robs us of the opportunity for social interaction with our peers as we must set off promptly at the appointed time and follow the wheels of our designated leader along their planned, caffeine restricted, route. A hearty "morning Gia" and "morning Paul" saw us on the way to Pannal to pick up Lynda (happy new year to Peter) and thence along Hag(g)s Lane where Jane, still on a heavy training regime, and Kevin left to return to Chateau Killinghall. The rest of us caught a strong tailwind to Spofforth for the photo call where Caroline's attempt to achieve a posed masterpiece to rival those of the EGs failed miserably (nice comment Liz) and thanks to the nice lady who abandoned her children to take a group shot of us all. Remounted, we proceeded to Kirk Deighton and to the start of the A1 path to Wetherby. Here ASBO Butler's change of plan "to continue to Scarborough and catch the train back" met with rebellion and so it came to pass that we headed into the wind and rain to Wetherby. Along the way Sur John, who hadn't, made a premature "see you later ladies stop", whilst we followed ASBO El B and his internal Sat Nav on a tour of the back streets of Wetherby before emerging at a manger in the town centre for a comfort stop. Then it was uphill, more head winds and rain via Lynton, Sicklinghall (where the wind chill cause several cold fingers) to Kirby Overblow (ding.... How did it get its name?). Here some went left to Pannal and some straight on to Rudding Park before returning to their various warm fires.....all that is apart from me who went to Spa Cycles for a warm discussion as to why my new bike's rear brakes had worn out in less than 600 miles!!!! Thanks for a great ride Dennis and to the rest, thanks for your company. 12x25, 2x12 Max

Wheel Easy Ride Report - A Tale of Two Wheels - what a Dickens of a day!

It was the best of times (being out with Wheel Easy with 8 other cyclists), it was the worst of times (uphill into the wind, and raining), it was the age of wisdom (stopping in Boroughbridge for a coffee and cake), it was the age of foolishness (going out for a ride in this weather), it was the epoch of belief (that cycling is good for you), it was the epoch of incredulity (what am I doing, going cycling on a day like this!!!!), it was the season of Light (yes, the cafe was open), it was the season of Darkness (no croissants at the cafe), it was the spring of hope (not raining), it was the winter of despair (raining), we had everything before us (Boroughbridge and back to Harrogate), we had nothing before us (arriving in Harrogate). Great Expectations for rides in 2012. Yvonne S

EG's Ride Report

The last few day weather had been very bad, and the forecast for the day was not that good, however the good news was that Low Bridge was still above water. Eric and Peter B had sent their apologies begging to be excused as they had some jobs to do indoors. So they have our sympathies because they could have been out enjoying themselves in the howling gales and driving rain. Whilst waiting for numbers to build up before 10-00am Wheel Easy Wednesdayers arrived so it was wishing everybody a happy New Year from the EG`s. Paul T arrived still with a smile on his face after Sunderland beat Manchester City and Wigan setting up his Happy New Year (his quote "it was like getting a new bike"). Away went the W.E.W`s and soon we had nine riders. Bob, Colin, Dave P, Dave W, Dave S, John E, John R , Peter J and Theo. As last Wednesday the wind was from the west, so this time it was south to keep the wind on our flanks to Kirk Deighton and Wetherby, here Bob who was still suffering from a bug returned home, the remaining eight in to Morrisons Cafe. On emerging from the warmth the wind was still strong from the west, so south again to Boston Spa, here JR returned for a hot date, then Clifford and Bramham, with the wind on our backs to Tadcaster, it took great strength of purpose to not stop at Tykes Tearooms, but the going was easy to Catterton and Healaugh and into the wind to Wighill, then through Thorpe Arch and on the cycle path to Wetherby avoiding most of the wind. At Wetherby an unusual occurrence happened, afternoon tea was declined due to the weather forecast. Dave P still in a state of shock realised this was a wise decision as it turned out. However this must not get around that the EG`s did a 45 mile ride with only one cafe stop, governments could fall and the stock exchange fail. Theo headed for Spofforth the rest for Knaresborough and Harrogate. Considering the bad weather over the last few days it had been a good ride, mostly playing the wind to our advantage, Otley being ruled out early because of possible flooding on the Castley road. Dave P



