

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Wednesday Rides



Poddlers Ride Report

Joe and Geraldine efficiently described their chosen route to the Poddlers' who were chomping at the bit raring to set off at 9.30 on the dot, and one minute after 9.30 we flooded out of Hornbeam, as did the rain. Not another day of cycling in the rain. At Low Bridge Joe decided that we should go in two groups, for safety purposes, and as there were people who could be speedy if the mood was right and some who might prefer a gentler meander, that was our split. Joe and Geraldine leading some speedy men, sped off never to be seen again and a baker's half dozen followed closely behind. John W. and Liz kindly pointed out the amazing amazing carved Kingfisher and lizard and the rain stopped and the sun came out. We powered onwards to Farnham, Occaney, and Copgrove, where a chance meeting with the EGs was an exciting and never before experienced treat. We tried to snatch a photo of the event, but their publicity rights and restrictions are very strict, and they rushed off as their leader Mr. Preston arrived. In a highly excited manner we continued our route along the track to the Boroughbridge-Bishop Monkton, and Bishop Monkton. Here we continued along J and G's route to Markington

and the Drover's , where we had another chance meeting with another group of cyclists, whilst preparing for our ballet stretching practice. Yvonne flew up to us and explained the absence of Jane and Liz..... they were having a mechanical failure....and then Martin arrived to take photos for our photo opportunity, and then Gia rolled up encouraging us to head for Sophie's for lunch. Tempting as the thought was.... coffee and more good company- with our hectic schedules ...people to see places to go....we stoically headed for the spectacular downhill to Ripley, Killinghall, where we could not see any evidence of footpath construction. We were once again tempted with offers from Jane for coffee and resuscitation, but would we ever get going again after we had stopped...no we'd have to move in for ever. Again well done Jane (that is the last well done you'll get as you are getting too good now) and how nice to see Michelle, who was willing to join her aunties and uncles once again, for a quick airing. Thank you for joining me. A sunny, sociable, NW windy ride of 25miles Caroline G.

It was not actually raining when we arrived at Hornbeam, but it had rained quite a bit overnight, and more was forecast for the morning, along with a stiff-ish north-westerly wind. About 14 of us opted for the Poddlers, and we decided to head towards Ripon via Knaresborough, not entirely sure of how far we'd get. It duly started raining as we set off towards Woodlands Corner, but it wasn't heavy, and it had effectively stopped by the time we reached Low Bridge. Someone suggested that 14 was too large a group for comfort, so we split into 2, with Caroline kindly agreeing to lead one group, while Geraldine and I took the other, which included Max, Denis, Gordon, Big John and Kevan. We did not see Caroline's group again, having agreed not to meet up at any specific location. We went along Abbey Road, Boroughbridge Road, left towards Farnham, up the hill and then left towards Occaney and left over the bridge towards Copgrove, where we had the team photo. We turned left along Oucher Lane towards Bishop Monkton and along to the Village Hall for a comfort break. After a brief discussion, we turned back for a hundred metres and then right towards the Cascade Aquatic and Garden centre on the A61. The headwind on this westerly journey proved to be unusually taxing for Geraldine, who, for once, was at the back. Into Markington and along to the Drovers, which is now a very sorry sight, but apparently it will be developed into housing. Kevan, Big John, Denis and Gordon headed for home down towards Ripley, and Max, Geraldine and I followed a little later after getting our breath back, and learning from Max a little of the physics which explain to some degree why Geraldine finds head winds harder than she expects. Back via Knox Ford, this time missing out on the Crawford Bypass, past the park and children's playground on the joint footpath/cycle path, over Dragon

railway bridge and up Claro Road. About 23 unexpectedly mainly dry miles.
Joe

Wheel Easy Ride Report

Late departure meant we had missed the main pelotons! But by ten o'clock the sun was shining so Malcolm and Gia collected Martin and Yvonne from their first coffee break at Fodders and proceeded on a nice roundabout route to Sophie's via Markington. There we met some of the Poddlers who had already met the EG's, they then insisted we adopt their photographic ballet pose and disappeared home via Ripley declining our invitation to Sophie's. The EG's were obviously feeling the sun as they too decided to descend on Sophie's and as the place was very full we made way for them. Lovely ride, sorry we missed the Ilkley boat, maybe another day. 32 miles. Gia

Jill, Sue and Paul made their way to Otley via North Rigton and Leathley. After coffee at 'Cafe Cafe' we returned via Askwith and Fewston. Jill, who had been very patient with my slow speed, continued towards Hampsthwaite while Sue and myself headed home. 33 miles. Paul

Such great weather after recent rains that we achieved our objective with a few extra miles added onto counter the break at Tea Hees so we could enjoy the cider apple cake at Ampleforth. Warned by the police to be aware of fast moving vehicles, which turned out to be 5 police vans on operation. no idea why. Then an indifferent police and council worker who stopped us for riding through a closed road with a smashed up car in a ditch, we had not realised it was that windy. Great to have such good weather and light.

Julie's stats: Finished Cycle: 16:41:17. Ride Time: 5:18:16 Stopped Time: 1:57:55, Distance: 70.68 miles, Average: 13.32 mph, Fastest Speed: 35.49 mph, Ascent: 2595 feet, Descent: 2421 feet, Calories: 2862, 80% ride enjoyment

EG's Ride Report

Wednesday started wet, but compared with Sunday, a sort of gentle wetness, but still not to be caught out the EG`s were wearing water repellent gear, including Rob`s new waterproof boots. Whilst waiting for roll call at Low Bridge we were joined by a fair number of Poddlers, Sundays weather being the main topic of conversation. Off went the Poddlers and soon the EG`s were up to thirteen riders. Bill W being absent to work on his bike (perhaps he was still draining the frame). With the wind being West to East the choice was either South or North, so North to Ripon and Spa Gardens Cafe and see how the weather was before deciding our final destination. At Farnham the usual downhill freewheel competition to Occaney was held, however due to

Bill's absence the start was not strictly controlled and who won was not clear, however Dave S and Colin were the favourites. Theo being on fixed is always at a disadvantage here, however he could take his feet off the pedals and place them on the handlebars (which he seems reluctant to do) The Poddlers were again met at Copgrove (they were not impressed with the EG's speed in catching them up), hope they were not going via the bridle path which after Sunday could have been a wade job. On to Ripon in the sunshine, yes sunshine surely this could not last, but it did. After sustenance Eric very kindly volunteered (?) to lead a longer ride still heading North Bedale? Masham? So the magnificent seven, including Theo stating if the hills got bad he was walking headed North. Dave P (the wimp) took the sensible six, West through Studley Park, South to Markington, Shaw Mills and Hampsthwaite. This reduced the guilt factor somewhat as although our distance would be less than Eric's, as everyone knows the route is somewhat lumpy. Then in to Sophie's for afternoon tea, only to meet Malcolm & Gia plus Martin & Yvonne, who kindly gave us their table in the full cafe. Gia took a bit of convincing that DP had not won the lottery, him being seen in Sophie's. After pleasant refreshment on to Knox Ford and through Harrogate via the cycle routes. The sun continued to shine, the grey clouds on the horizon never got to us, and the 20mph winds never materialised, brilliant day around 37 miles max. Look forward to hearing from Eric (all safe & sound).
Dave P

At the coffee stop at Ripon Spa Gardens Cafe, 7 EGs decided that an early bath at home was not too appealing, so decided to ride on to Masham. As we exited the Spa Gardens park gates, Peter B asked which route we were taking to Masham. "Right" shouted Colin, so Peter shot across the road through a gap in the traffic, and turned right. By the time the next gap appeared in the traffic, we'd had time to decide the best route was via Galphay, Kirby Malzeard and Grewelthorpe, so the remaining 6 all turned left. Eventually our ploy was rumbled and Peter turned round and caught us up 4 miles later in Galphay. Over soup in the Suncatchers Cafe in Masham, another cunning plan was hatched at one table. We would return via Lofthouse. "After all, it's only blowing a force 8 gale and we've been over in much worse conditions.". Peter B certainly knows how to sweet talk me! In fact anybody can sweet talk me to go over Lofthouse, my bike just seems to go over Lofthouse without me needing to steer it. So Peter, Theo and I set off, whilst the 4 other EGs returned home on some flatter route. The visibility today was as good as ever, so from the top of Lofthouse we could see the heavy industry of Teesside in the distance, and Hartlepool Nuclear Power Station beyond. We took some photos for Wheel Easy records of Theo's achievement at the top of Lofthouse. Theo is a mere 77 years young, and he rides a fixed wheel bike!!

He makes me, 15 years younger and with 29 more gears to chose from, seem like a real whimp! My consolation is that I hope to emulate Theo and look forward to my bike steering me over Lofthouse for at least the next 15 years. It was 4pm when we arrived in Pateley Bridge. Teacups Cafe was already closed. Lemon Meringue Cafe should have closed at 4pm, but were happy to remain open & serve us with a smile. Over our 3 apple pies with custard, we needed to hatch yet another cunning plan: the route from PB to Harrogate. Theo, given his deficiency in the gear department, was given the honour of choosing the routes and opted for Yorke's Folly, So off we set into the wind again to conquer Yorke's Folly, More photos were taken to record Theo arriving at the top of Yorke's Folly. The distant views were again excellent, with Knabs Ridge wind farm, Menwith Hill and Harrogate in the middle distance, and Drax power station just visible on the horizon. We finally arrived home at 6.30pm, having covered 65 miles, climbed 3,500', at an average speed of 11mph. Eric



