

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Wednesday Rides



Poddlers Ride Report

That El Butler was leading the Poddlers' today had been a well kept secret, so everyone managed to grab a place following in the great leader's wheels. He was going to lead us on his famous daffodil tour. Gold, lemon, yellow ocre, gamboge, cadmium yellow, xanthin, mustard, chrome, canary lightened our route as we followed El Butler passed stands of Stray daffodils, lines of Lingerfield's best, flows of Farnham's frivolities up towards the start of the EG's freewheeling course. At this point a crowd of golden d..no golden boys overtook us with cheery waves and comments... Here was my opportunity to find the secret of the Freewheeling Contest. Sadly they were too modest to show us an actual competition, but I was told the rules and regulations, and now realise that it is all based on weight...lots of it helps going down and a little as you reach halfway up..thus giving you time to throw off water bottles, coats, saddles, legs etc to win the event.

Geraldine had realised by now that Joe was trying to slow her down and asked the rest of the group to help sort out his tampering. Max left us to return home to his sick bed ...a severe case of a man cold... probably

needing a lung transplant or even an iron lung. Ten followers finally reached Bishop Monkton, where black ducks mingled amongst the host of yellow and orange daffodils. Kevin met his sister, and greeted her, not mentioning that he was about to perform a ballet with the rest of the Poddlers in front of her house. En route to the beauty of Boroughbridge's daffodil bounty, the bike tampering was again noted and repairs made by Joe overseen by Steve.... without needing the small roadside workshop Kevin had prepared. So watch out Gordon, Allison, and Dennis, we know how to slow you down now....brake jamming. Roecliffe, Minskip, and North Stavely all showed off their shades of spring, but non exhibited the primroses and blue bells seen in Bishop Monkton. Back up Knaresborough Hill Michelle and Liz demonstrated that they did not need to go into training for their next expeditions.....Michu Pichu and somewhere hilly Richard will no doubt take her. Thank you Dennis another magnificent ride and loads of daffodils in the wheels of El Butler. 32miles for 9 and 36 for 1 and 23 for 1 of the hospital cases. Caroline G

Wheel Easy Ride Report

Something was amiss this morning, no hoards of Poddlers and only a few for the Wednesday girls and boys. Richard kindly accompanied the group of seven guiding us to Roundhay via an excellent route to Collingham and Thorner which kept us away from the main busy roads and mostly kept us high on the ridge. Malcolm did a detour to see his brother but joined us at the café. After an excellent stop at Roundhay Park, Malcolm set off on his second assignation of the day in to Leeds City Centre and possibly to meet up with Maz who had been desperately texting him all day! Maz had the wrong number but Malc didn't like to tell him/her! Angela led us through the suburbs of Leeds to access Eccup at the Village Road end and then on a route to the Arthington end of the Pool road. There we were on familiar territory again and cycled back to Harrogate via Castley and Kirkby Overblow. Richard finally cut loose but reappeared after Weeton and sped off somewhere else. Well done to Bridget who joined us straight from her night shift at the hospital. Great ride 49 miles. Gia

EG's Ride Report

It started out as a grey day at Low Bridge, but spring was in the air despite an early chill. We had a record turnout of seventeen riders. In spring a young mans fancy turns to In spring an old mans fancy turns to getting the miles in, with warmth in his joints, hence the good turnout. It was decided to head North to Spa Gardens cafe in Ripon as they can handle numbers without cafe shock, and also because next Wed we will be doing a trial run for our Reliability Ride from Wetherby. To anyone who has not come across this term before, a Reliability Ride is not a race but as its name implies

is a reflection on the maintenance standards and condition of your bike and also your own personal cycling equipment. On heading north we found ourselves in close contact with a Pod of Poddlers for which we had a "brief encounter" (we can't go on meeting like this darling) becoming The Poddeglers for a while. Norman and Caroline having a close encounter of the third kind as they cycled up the hill. The traditional freewheel competition down to Occaney was shambolic with no one declared champion. By Bishop Monkton groups had formed to reduce the effect of 17 riders descending at once on the cafe. One of the later groups on entering the cafe was met by Peter B (with tears in his eyes) greeting us with the dreaded news that they had eaten all the toasted teacakes. After we had overcome our desolation with extra calories we headed north to Wath and a right turn to Aiderby Quernhow, at Skipton-on-Swale Norman and Terry headed south for Topcliffe and Boroughbridge, the remainder heading east to Thirsk trying to catch the smell of fish & chips. However the price of the pensioners special, though very tasty has risen a lot. After muster the fifteen headed for Sowerby, Dalton and Topcliffe, then Cundall and Boroughbridge, steady pelaton riding meant we made good time. Unfortunately for some (Dave P included) a cafe stop could not be made, Tasty Snacks looking very inviting, with EG`s waving to us and grinning as we sped home. Again good time was made as Dave S led the pelaton, then the sun came out. Another good spring ride approx max mileage around 62 miles. Dave P



