

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

## Wednesday Rides



### Poddlers Ride Report

The weather forecast on Tuesday night was for heavy rain and strong easterly winds from 10 am, so we expected the worst, but by the morning the weather forecast had 'postponed' the rain till 1 pm, so we were a little more hopeful of not getting soaked. There was not a big turnout at Hornbeam, but 12 of us opted for Poddling, including Jennifer, who is one of Gia's 'starters', who had not ridden more than about 18 miles so far. We had in mind heading towards Wetherby and then re-assessing the situation when we got there. As the Showground hill is a bit of gremlin for us, we decided to go down it on our way out to Rudding and across the ring road to Follifoot, where we took the group photo by the gates and thence to Spofforth. Alison found she had a 'lumpy' front tyre, and this was improved, but not cured, by lowering the pressure in it. The rain held off and the wind was not too strong as we went along the Harland Way. A brief group discussion resulted in no café stop, and a decision to return via Kirk Deighton, using the cycle path alongside the old A1 rather than the road. Another brief discussion and suggestions (i.e. weak leadership...) led us to decide to continue up the A1

cycle path and take the private road through the Ribston Hall estate. We noticed the camera as we went through the gate, but did not expect to see the gamekeeper or whomever standing in the road about 500 metres along the road. He told us, quite politely, really, that we were on private land, and asked us to turn round and go back. He spoiled his conduct a little by saying that we would not appreciate it if he regularly cycled through our gardens. Malcolm pointed out that we do not have roads through our gardens, but there was little point in pursuing the argument, so we turned round and exited the estate: at least they opened the automatic big gates for us. We went back the way we came and then turned off to Little Ribston and into Knaresborough, benefitting from the now-following wind. Steve left us in Knaresborough, and the rest of us went along the riverside to Mother Shipton's, and then up the hill back towards Starbeck, and along Bogs Lane. It just started to rain as we reached the Stray, so, all-in-all, we were very lucky with the weather.

About 22 unexpectedly dry miles. Joe

### Wheel Easy Ride Report

With Richard as leader, three experienced and one novice 'tough' route riders set off for Otley on a mission to be back in Harrogate for 13.00. Asmit turned out, this was less to do with the impending deluge forecast for the afternoon and more connected with Julie's request to meet the 12.49 from Weeton to Hornbeam. Whatever the true balance of reasons, the pace was briskish. With two intending Alpine tourists, the group sought out several chevron climbs as the route wound its way from Beckwithshaw, Lindley Bridge, Norwood Bottom, Fewston, Timble, High Snowdon, Otley, Weeton Station and Hornbeam. Dave punctured on the route into Norwood Bottom, but was away again inside 15 mins. One of the joys of cycling is the people you meet and the challenges they set you: today it was cyclist with loaded panniers resting for a drink/chew at High Snowdon, bound for Holmfirth! Well at least the wind was behind him. Past Dob Park the gusty easterly wind made life interesting and with the mission schedule ruling out a stop Cock Pit Farm, it had to be Dunnies at Otley. What's so wrong with Formica? Welcome tea and teacakes for three, plus a large plate of mince and mash for Richard as the picture will attest. That explains Richard's strength in big gears. Storm and tempest caught up with us while in Dunnies and the group split into two pairs: Richard and Julie heading at pace to Weeton to meet the train in good time and Dave and Terry retracing a couple of the morning climbs before Terry opted for Weeton and the train back to Leeds and a thorough soaking from Headingley to Roundhay. A good training ride was had by all and there was just a hint of sun at about 11.00. Distances will vary according to how

we finished: 36 miles back to Roundhay, something similar to Hornbeam.  
Thanks to all. Terry Smith

### EG's Ride Report

A grey start to the day but at least it was dry, though the forecast promised worst things to come. A goodly gathering of Wheel Easy Wednesdayers and Poddlers could be seen in Hookstone Carpark on the way down to Low Bridge. At Low Bridge Dave W set a new standard by being the first to arrive and also facing the right way. Also a welcome back to Theo and Barry Mc. Soon we had twelve riders, it was then decided to head for Boroughbridge take early morning coffee and see what the weather might do before deciding on our final destination, as usual Eric took the fast group to announce our impending arrival and lessen cafe shock. However on entering Boroughbridge the same Eric was seen facing the wrong way, Tasty Snacks is full was the cry, the tail enders now had the advantage as it was a 360o turn and a sprint into Morrisons Cafe. After sustenance and perhaps some reluctance to leave a warm cafe it was decided to head north with the wind on our starboard side ( it was here that John R left us to return home, some say wise man). Approaching Dishforth those that had done National Service insisted we turn left to Marton-le-Moor and Sharow. At the Ure bridge the rain suggested it might become a bit of a nuisance, so a poll was taken. Here Barry Mc, Bill W, Eric (yes Eric), Norman and Terry decided to head for home. ( Dave P would have liked to do the same but seeing as he wimped out last Sunday he had to try to salvage some of his street cred). Colin, Dave P, Dave W and Theo headed into Ripon, Colin leaving us to find a bank and return home, the remainder on to Spa Gardens cafe to find Dave W and Peter B ( PB finishing off a rhubarb & ginger crumble & custard and in the throes of temptation about having another). The rain was now rather heavy and it was difficult to leave a warm dry café especially after Caroline had said if we had brought sleeping bags we could have spent the night there. Thank goodness the premises are not licensed otherwise the temptation might have been to great. Soon it was the climb up Studley Roger Park where at the top PB very kindly held the gate open for us, he was however reprimanded for not raising his cap and knuckling his forehead ( he is from the midlands and needs a bit more training). The rain was constant, fortunately the wind was mostly behind us to Ripley were Dave W`s question regarding who wanted an ice cream was not met with much enthusiasium. Here the two Daves headed for Knaresborough, DP, PBand Theo for Harrogate. Well it had to be done, fortunately skin is waterproof even if clothing isn't always. Around 41 miles, this drought has to end soon. Dave P



