

Wednesday, May 2, 2012

Wednesday Rides



Poddlers Ride Report

10 Poddles set off on their Poddle to Pateley. Colin joined the faster group at Stainburn Forest, Sur John surged down Pennypot Lane to meet the gas man and Caroline, Max and Michelle turned right at Menwith Hill as they needed to get back. Dennis, Gordon, John W and Steve turned left at Menwith with me. We turned down through Thornthwaite and then it was up onto the ridge where we could see the faster group ahead of us and also patches of blue sky. Unfortunately the promised views of Coldstones Cut were obscured by mist. We stopped for a misty photo session at the top of Yorkes Folly and for a snack at the bottom. Everyone struggled up the hill at Glasshouses then we continued over Hartwith toll road. At Hampsthwaite Gordon and Dennis went straight home while the remaining 3 of us indulged in coffee and cake at a very busy Sophie's. An enjoyable outing with new routes for some. Thank you gentlemen for your patience when I walked up some of the hills. About 34 miles for 5. Liz

Wheel Easy Ride Report

The poddlers are no longer the poddlers! They put the rest of us to shame with their ambitious ride organised by Liz to go over the top of the hills to Pateley Bridge on a chilly morning. There was only one thing to do - follow them! So eight of us rode the same route and at hardly any greater speed up past Menwith Hill, and around the top of Thornthwaite to Braithwaite, before dropping down Yorke's Folly to Pateley for coffee and sustenance. Sarah made us all envious of her disc brakes saying how easy it was to control her bike on the descent into Pateley so no doubt a mass conversion is soon to follow. Then it was home via Glasshouses, Smelthouses, Brimham Cross Roads and Hampsthwaite - oh no, not another cafe stop. 35 miles in the dry, but was it cold! Martin Weeks

EG's Ride Report

A cold misty morn on Harlow Hill, but as usual much more pleasant at Low Bridge, ie dry and with a watery sun threatening to break through. In fact a photo was taken to record the absence of rain. This was due to Dave P wearing waterproof gloves and a helmet cover.(things could only get better). Destination?, the sailors amongst us stuck a wet finger in the air, felt he wind and decided that Easingwold was the best destination for us, based on the assumption that the wind direction would not have changed by the afternoon Ha !. So the dozen riders (certainly not a dirty dozen after all the rain) headed for Arkendale and Angela`s Cafe, Eric taking a fast group to announce our arrival. In the cafe we met Mike Fielding, a long serving member of NYDA committee, on asking how Wheel Easy was going, he was told (after a quick check with Eric) that we had around 250 members. Mike was most impressed and said he would report back with these figures as they set an example to the whole of North Yorkshire. NYDA having reformed the Ryedale section. After caffeine and lots of chat it was on to Grafton and Lower Dunsforth. Here Norman who was feeling a bit "peelie wallie" (Dave P & Dave W were not sure if they had heard right) and Dave P, who was feeling a bit "washed out" (man & machine had never had such a good washing over the last three weeks) headed for Boroughbridge and the charms of Sonia before heading home. Bill (sans marigolds), Colin, Dave W, Dave S, Eric, John E, John R, Peter, Roy and Theo headed for Aldwark Bridge and Easingwold (we think). Dave P

Our esteemed leader, DP, appeared to be taking more photos in the earlier part of the ride than usual...a cunning plan perhaps? Eventually his cunning plan was revealed! With 12 EGs reporting for duty at Knaresborough Low Bridge, we split into 2 groups to minimise any inconvenience to the motorists of Knaresborough and villages to the north east thereof. Sadly there was no reciprocal response from the motorists. As our first group crossed York Road

traffic lights one car came through red lights right across our path, oblivious to both red lights and cyclists, then seconds later another car pulled out of a side-street on the right hand side of Chain Lane, apparently oblivious to a group of cyclists in bright colours on the opposite side of the road! Dare I mention that both cars were driven by w_____!? No - that might be interpreted as a sexist remark! From Farnham to Angela's café on the A168 at Marton cum Grafton, 4 of us got our cardio-vascular exercise for the day and averaged 17.6mph against the wind for a number of miles. After a pleasant break relaxing with Angela, her toasted tea cakes and her coffee, we resumed our journey to Easingwold. 3 miles later Norman suddenly announced he was turning off northward - no doubt to enjoy the company of Sonya in Tasty Snacks at Boroughbridge - but shock, horror, probe, our esteemed leader, DP, dropped the bombshell that he too was turning homeward! Words like "rats" and "sinking ships" sprung to mind - but the captain should always be the last man to leave the ship, not the first - if he's British. Perhaps Davide Luigi di Prestonio has some Italian ancestry that had previously escaped our notice! So there we were, 10 abandoned EGs, miles from nowhere except Lower Dunsforth, no leader, no maps, and only 10 hours of daylight left. How could we possibly get out of such a predicament? Well, after debates about whether - in our leader's absence - we should make a break for Cuba, or the fleshpots of Hull, we decided that without maps to either of those tempting destinations, we would have to stick with our esteemed and revered leader's plan as our bikes would be able to take us to Temptations Café in Easingwold on auto pilot. After lunch there we returned via Raskelf, Thornton Bridge and Boroughbridge, where Roy and I adjourned for more refreshments (simply replenishing calories ahead of my squash game, you understand) whilst the remainder continued home apace. 2 riders approx 30 miles, other 10 riders: approx 42 miles for the Knaresborough boys and 52 miles for the Harrogate contingent. Remarkably all the miles were dry! Eric

Faster Ride Away Day Report

Away day beginners luck with the weather on our intending each 1st Wed away ride. Dry all day and even sunshine in the afternoon, but a very strong N wind slowed us much of the time on the climbs and even more so on the descent to Arncliffe. But surely the payback was worth it. I was doing 39 uphill (not for long) before I lost my speedo and the rest of the group, til the next regroup, by then Steve had topped 47. Peter J must also have done some speeding to get in front to take some photos. Up from Malham with drink and large servings of cake, down Arncliffe plus a half climb from Darnbrook and almost all off on the bend when the wind abated . A lovely quiet way into Settle via Little Stainforth then the final climb over the cobbles

on the Way of the Roses back to Gargrave and its free car and free toilets, (Settle take note), marred slightly by extra traffic from the closed A65. A great hilly ride and 3600 ft in 50 miles, somehow all finishing together. Richard



