

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

## Wednesday Rides



### Poddlers Ride Report

An incredible number of cyclists gathered at Hornbeam, thankfully only twelve opted to "Poddle" to Boroughbridge. Welcome to Julie a new poddler. Having greeted the EG's at Low Bridge we continued via Abbey Lane and Manse Lane to York Road then Goldsboro', Flaxby and Coneythorpe. Leaving Coneythorpe we took the right hand fork uphill along a quiet road to the outskirts of Arkendale, half way along this side road the absence of Kevin and Jane was noted, so a posse was sent back to search and to use the alternative route to Arkendale without success. Pleased to hear that our "lost couple" found an alternative route and arrived home safely. The poddle continued over the A1 to Marton cum Grafton and onwards via Aldborough to Boroughbridge. The route home by Minskip and Knaresborough was uneventful. In conclusion a pleasant ride with sunshine and no wind as well as good company, apologies to Kevin and Jane for losing them.

Substitute Leader John W

## Wheel Easy Ride Report

Decisions, Decisions, Decisions. Martin decided to go for a run instead of cycling. As he ran through Hornbeam car park someone shouted, "Where do we go Martin if you are not here?". "Cockpit Farm" he replied before sprinting off. However, with Martin away we could head south! We could go to Boston Spa or Tadcaster or Selby or Temple Newsam or Roundhay Park. After much discussion we decided upon Cockpit Farm! Sue decided to lead us to Timble via Penny Pot Lane, Wydra Lane, Back Lane and North Lane. After Askwith Moor Road and Askwith we reached Cockpit Farm. As we approached a jogger was seen heading towards Otley. Surely not Martin! As can be seen from the photograph the hardest decision of the day was to decide what to order. We then decided on different ways home. David headed towards Harewood and Wetherby, Paul along the A658 to Pannal and Sue, Angela, Kevin and Colin through Castley, Weeton and Kirkby Overblow. Another good 30 mile ride. Paul

Warm at last. What a joy to be overdressed after such a rotten month!

Three of us (Dave R, Peter and myself) led by Dave set off for some more hill work en route for Pateley Bridge, with the aim of returning for 1.00.

pm. I suspect that the route is part of the Wheel Easy staple diet, but was challenging enough for Pete and me nevertheless.

Briefly, the route took in the Squinting Cat, Beckwithshaw, the dreadful corrugated descent to Oak Beck, Penny Pot Lane, Dangerous Corner, Darley Mill, Dacre, Heyshaw Moor, Yorke's Folly and Pateley. Julie P stopped to say hello, going the opposite way to us and riding solo today.

Our turnaround point was Teacups Cafe at Bridgehousegate (01423 711494) and some welcome tea and buns plus, for me, the added bonus of instruction from an elderly lady on how to carry a full mug of tea and a plate of date and walnut through a closed door, without using the floor. Yes - put the plate on the mug! Another life skill in the portfolio. Just one of the many good reasons to support Teacups Cafe.

The return was by the valley road through Glasshouses, the B6165 and after a brief look at Summer Bridge Fire Station, Dave took us along the gentle bridleway alongside the Nidd to the bridge on the B6451. Idle conversation was kept to minimum as we climbed up from Dacre Banks to Dacre (50m ascent at 14% or 1 in 7 in old coinage) after which there was only the deceptively steep pull up out of Birstwith towards Hampsthwaite that made talking a luxury.

Unfortunately, there was no opportunity to call in at Sophie's as we pressed on back through Knox and Bilton and the gently crowded streets of Harrogate.

After farewells, we made our separate ways to lunch. Fodder's cafe at the Showground was full to heaving, so it had to be Sainsbury's cafe, where in-depth analysis revealed that a light lunch was less good value than at Fodder. Clearly, more research is needed on that one.

Regrettably, none of us had a camera. It must be a generation thing! So there is just a library shot of Yorke's Folly to brighten this report. Our route today showed the right way to tackle Yorke's Folly - downhill! Dave assures us that it's not as fearsome the other way, because the sharp climbs are followed by respite sections. One day... one day!

Although it seemed hilly, the map shows that we descended many more chevrons than we climbed - just the one up to Dacre. Many thanks to Dave for an enjoyable ride, completed before the rain came again in early afternoon. Terry Smith

### EG's Ride Report

What a way to start a day, sun and blue sky, most off putting. On the way down to Low Bridge almost failed to notice Martin W, well he was in running kit or else he was heading for the beach ? Other Wheel Easyers could be seen gathering in Hookstone car park. At Low Bridge Wheel Easy Wednesdayers had a catch up stop as the EG`s began to gather. Soon we had a sizeable fifteen without regulars Eric, on a all day bridging class, this could make the brain hurt, better to use it just to choose what calories you should have with your caffeine at cafe stops, and Bill down with a bug (get well soon). Destination Wetherby and Morrisons the only cafe we could get fifteen in, however today it was via Thistle Hill, Follifoot, Spofforth and Kirk Deighton with DW facing the wrong way. On emerging from said cafe still in to the sunshine, Marvin left us for home, the remaining fourteen climbed the Sicklinghall ridge ready for the freewheel wheel challenge down into Wharfedale, there was a whooping an a swooping as the EG`s descended but the honours went to Colin determined to avenge his previous defeat. Soon we were climbing out of Dunkeswick up to Wescoe Hill. Descending to Castlely and meeting a small party of Wheel Easy coming up, unfortunately the passing speed was not conducive for stopping for a quick chat. At Otley Peter R left the group to return home, then the big decision (anybody remember the term U and non U) well five U`s went to Cafe Cafe and eight non U`s went to Dunnies, all to meet at 1-45pm. By 1-20pm the eight in Dunnies, Bob, Colin, Dave P, John E, Peter B, Peter J, Norman and Terry had finished, and it had begun to rain, so five headed for the hills, two to retrace the route back and DP to return to Cafe Cafe to pick up Dave W, Dave S, John R, Roy and Theo, once again they had parked their bikes outside "Crumpet Cottage"( I am not joking). The rain was persistent but not heavy compared with what we had suffered recently, but the six decided anyway to backtrack

to Weeton (some cleat adjustment for DS) and Kirkby Overblow, where we found that Norman and Terry had claimed squatters rights on the bus shelter. Then the eight headed for home, some to freewheel (not Theo) and some to climb. Mile around 44 to 46 miles for the eight. Think positive, the morning was what the rest of the year is going to be. Dave P



