

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Wednesday Rides



Poddlers Ride Report

Welcome to two new Poddlers - Elaine (more later) and Joyce (who arrived by train from Knaresborough). Having girded my loins and eaten an extra boiled egg I prepared to lead the Poddlers to Timble and Hampsthwaite BUT I had read our Fuhress's rota incorrectly and found to my sheer delight that I was No 2 and that Steve was ready to head off to the joys of Wetherby via the Spofforth Cycle Path. Caroline had a chain incident as we shot up Rudding Lane from those lights which always turn red when I approach. The faster phalanx, including Max, had surged ahead at breakneck speed so Jen nobly applied supreme pedal pressure and finally caught them up and asked Max to return to save his Love. Meanwhile the irrepressible Caroline had sorted her own problem and the two returned in relative harmony! Thus, we forged on to Wetherby. Alison and Bridget decided to seek a leisurely coffee before returning to their various duties and Caroline, Jen, Elaine, Joyce and I formed a more sedate-paced group. As No 2 and unsure of the intended route, I sought the geographical help of Colleague Caroline. Thankfully she knew the way and we headed off on the cycle path to Sykes Farm and on

through Walton, Tockwith, Cattal and Hunsingore to Walshford. A debate ensued re the use of the private road through Ribston Hall. It was agreed to try it but the gates were locked and access was strictly prohibited. A pity for those of us wishing to gawp at the splendours of the house with the Knights Templar window. Undeterred we retraced our tyre marks and set off on the cycle path until we came to a field gate whereupon Elaine said she knew the way across the fields to Little Ribston - and she did! Once more, loins were girded and we bravely negotiated mud, puddles, intrusive ears of wheat/nettles and a very narrow bridge. Then lo and behold, we came to the B6164 and headed for Knaresborough. Elaine was duly thanked for her agrarian know-how! We bade farewell to Joyce beside the bypass. Congratulations on her prowess and fortitude must have rung in her ears all the way home - 30 miles for debut ride! The remaining four followed Caroline to Calcutt and then to Morrisons roundabout where she departed ready to take up action against ORANGE who had messed up her 3000 free texts per hour by suggesting she was not eligible for such freedom of usage. (A later text confirmed that all was well and that the status remains quo!) Shareholders take note! Jen and I saw Elaine home and then pedalled to Hornbeam with thoughts of a quiet afternoon fast becoming a reality.

Thank you for a superb route, Steve - not sure you'd intended the off-roading but it was very good fun! 33 miles. Sue

Set off in warm but overcast weather and forecast of light rain later. 19 including 2 first timers headed towards Wetherby via Showground, Rudding, Higgs Road and Spofforth. We then split into two groups the quicker went via cycle track to Thorp Arch, Walton, Tockwith and Cattal where we stopped for a short break at the bridge. We then headed on past Hunsingore to Little Ribston and back via Knaresborough. Good ride, rain stayed away 32 miles and back about 12.30pm. - Received message from Caroline that other group enjoyed ride, got back safely but had taken slightly different route. Steven Perry

EG's Ride Report

The weather forecasters seemed to be unable to agree amongst themselves regarding what was in store for us. With that in mind thirteen riders headed for Tadcaster and Tykes Tearoom for Tea and Teacakes with the option of heading home if the weather became bad (as one forecast said), but not before sending the EG's flying squad of four captained by John E (still a bit miffed from not being in the red teams photo) ahead to warn the cafe to get their toasting machines up to temperature. After our caffeine break John R, Norman and Terry headed for home (can't do this on the tour JR?). The rest of us heading for Bolton Percy, but where was Theo?, Bill headed back to the cafe, but no Theo. In fact Theo had followed the wrong set of wheels, but

due to the wonders of mobile phones he hoped to meet us at Bishopthorpe, for afternoon tea, which he did. A short stop was taken Acaster Selby, but again disappointment for DP the Ouse was still flowing North to South., on to Acaster Malbis and Bishopthorpe, where Peter J turned back for home, and Theo was met at Tesco`s cafe. Admin is difficult on these rides as numbers and faces keep changing. Then back to Harrogate / Knaresborough, the bikes know the way, so the riders, Bill, Bob, Colin T, Dave P, Dave W, John E, Marvin, Peter R, and Theo only had to sit on them and pedal. Good cycling weather, rubbish weather forecast, good ride around 58 miles. Back in Harrogate for 4-00pm, so no probs for them with hot dates. For those Wheel Easy riders who visited the Cycle Show, dampish but not as thought a Glastonbury mud fest, see photos of ideal mud bikes. Next Wednesday John E is organising a 100 miler from Low Bridge, meeting at 8-30 am. He would be pleased to see all Wheel Easy riders who would like a challenge, and assures us it won't be a fast pace. It will be out to Castle Howard, and the Flamingo Park area. Dave Preston

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