

Wednesday, July 4, 2012

## Wednesday Rides



### Poddlers Ride Report

Her indoors who likes to be outdoors announced, over yesterday's evening meal, one hastily prepared between the live coverage of the Tour de France and the all engaging Tour highlights TV coverage, that I would be leading a relatively short ride but with one with stunning views and much climbing. Anyway El Butler would be with me and if I were to lose navigational stability he would sort me out. A total of 15 riders set out for the wind assisted (unusual) climb up to Little Armscliffe car park where after much posing, pouting and preening, eight by two glossy photographs were taken to record the event and we split into two groups. Eight slightly faster riders set off for Bland Hill, where a left turn brought us face to face with a road closure sign and a man in a van blocking the road. He ignored us and we ignored him continuing in the direction of Norwood before making a right turn along Brat Lane. Where Brat Lane meets Jack Hill Lane, El Butler, in playful mood, sent us briefly in the wrong direction up a vertical climb. Now on the correct route with its glorious vistas along valleys and reservoirs we descended past Sword Point House and Hanging Banks before the ascent to Norwood Bottom.

Reaching Norwood Hall and the main road we were confronted with the aforementioned road works. The hollows created for re-patching were nimbly avoided by all as we climbed to Norwood Edge Plantation where a right turn took us in an uphill direction to the gated entrance to Stainburn Forest. Glyn declared that the ride would make a good training ride for him in the future and Surge John announced his intention of doing just that. Downhill from Stainburn Forest to Beckwithshaw, where Billy whizzed off accompanied by Allison, was followed by the ascent to "Top of the World" cross roads for the remaining five. We returned to Harrogate via Burn Bridge. Well done to Jamie who kept up with us and, despite not knowing where he was or where he was going to, showed blind faith in the leadership. A relatively short ride of around 24 miles but with more than the average amount of climbs and good banter. Postscript. Whilst riding home along Victoria Avenue I was hailed in an unladylike manner by two unnamed representatives of the slightly slower group. Silence followed my question - "Did you do the extra hill then"? Max

At Little Almscliffe Crag the speedier members of the Poddlers' surged off into the sun. Six ladies accompanied by John Wood, set up a graceful swoop onto the closed road to Otley. A kind person tarmac-ing the road suggested we have a ride to the top of the hill in his lorry or borrow some sand bags to hold us back. Well surprisingly we refused all offers and eventually we were negotiating the surprisingly numerous and surprisingly steep grit covered downs and ups of Brat Lane and Jack Hill. As we rounded corners we were stunned by amazing views until we, to everyone's surprise we went down the steepest hill into the centre of the earth or Norwood Bottom, and then returned up a surprisingly gentle slope back up to the the Otley Road. Here we were met by the road tarmacers again, and an uneven road surface caused some pushing. After a banana break and drink overlooking Lindley Reservoir we followed a bit more up and downing and arrived remarkably back at the newt pond gate entrance to Stainburn forest. Much to several people's amazement we had returned to Little Almscliffe....it was all over bar the free wheeling home. This is a very surprising ride, in depth, distance and final positioning. Thank you all you gentle riders and new ladies you are amazing. 20 vertical miles and back in time for an early bath and an afternoon winning a tour de france stage between Abbeville and Rouen. Caroline G

### Wheel Easy Ride Report

A fine collection of Poddlers as usual very well organised, with a leader and a plan set off in good time! Nice to welcome some newer members to that group. Martin recognising the efforts of the Sunday ride out west (i.e. hills) suggested east and flat. We met a very depleted threesome of EG's at Low Bridge, the rest no doubt having taken up John's 100 mile challenge. They

declined our offer to join us. On to Goldsborough and Coneythorpe where Martin returned home with a broken spoke. Darren led us in to Grafton which was a first for most of us as we always do the Marton bit and then in to Lower Dunsforth. Kevin had already called out for the extra loop and with another one at Cattal it was a long ride until coffee! We took Darren along the cycle path from Thorp Arch, a first for him and we all piled in to the Deli on North Street by which time lunch was the order of the day. Back to Harrogate via cycle path where at the Spofforth end there is an excellent new information board about the old railway line and the dreadful plant has been removed! See photo.

Home via the showground, great ride, thanks to Darren and William for their patience and company on a lovely ride. 43 miles Gia

### EG's Ride Report

Not a good weather forecast "again", this meant John E was not a happy bunny on the day of his 100 miler. However it looked like not much notice was taken of the forecast as quite a few must have gone on the 8-30am start century ride. This meant that with riders on holiday (some lucky people actually watching the tour) we only had three riders for the 10-00am ride, the upside of this being that we would not create "cafe shock" so we could pick and choose our cafe stops. There was a brief meeting with Wheel Easy Wednesday Riders including Sue C and Monica, back from their epic swim across Windermere, where they could not have got much more wetter than some of our recent rides. If the weather does not improve it may be rubber suits for cycling as well. Away went the W.E.W.R's followed by the EG's three mouseketers who headed for Boroughbridge. The freewheel down to Occaney was won by JR on his tour bike aided by a couple of bricks in his saddle bag. After morning snacks in Tasty Snacks (Sonia still in Egypt, teaching the Egyptians how to make sponge pudding and custard) it was on to Brafferton and Myton-on-Swale to show JR (from the south) the battle field and impress upon him the trouble us Yorkies had from marauding Scots in days gone by, though they do still come on coach trips. Still heading south, looking at patches of blue sky our luck still seemed in, no rain and dry roads. A bit of a headwind to Flawith, Tollerton and Newton-on-Ouse and Home Farm Cafe/shop. No cafe shock and BW, DP, and JR were served in record time. Back to Aldwark Bridge, Branton Green, Arkendale and Harrogate with a bit of a tailwind (nice). Difficult to believe it did not rain on our parade, though some wet roads near Harrogate led us to believe we were lucky. Around 54 miles, gentle training for the tour to Berwick on Tweed, to shout things across the border about Scots with hairy knees, eating porage in bed, and wearing skirts. Dave P.

## EG's 100 mile Ride Report

The Magnificent Seven met at Low bridge for The EG's Annual 100. Peter K, John E, Colin (Spa Cycles), Marvin, Dave W, Dave S, and dead on 8.30am Eric. Off we sped towards Easingwold and our first stop, however, before we left Waterside, Richard from WE's had joined us, so we became the energetic eight! At 10am we sat down in the Cafe in Easingwold, what luck, between 10am and 11am all drinks £5;1, and fast and friendly service, as well. So in good spirits we continued onwards and upwards to Terrington. Here we turned left to Castle Howard, Flamingo Land, Nunnington Hall, and towards our second stop in Hovingham. A slight mistake by our leader, not turning the direction page over in time, took us into the delightful village of Harome, see Photos. We then back tracked a quarter of a mile towards Hovingham. Just on the climb through Nunnington the heavens opened and the forecast of heavy thundery showers came true! We were drenched in no time, even though we sheltered under some trees for a while. As we continued, the roads had been transformed into rivers with lakes at the bottom of the hills, what fun, Dave S remarked "well at least it's warm water" So suitably Drenched we arrived in Hovingham for afternoon tea at 3pm. Our first choice of Cafe as recommended by our leader, had turned into a hair salon!, So it was back to the second choice, (bad experience last year) but all OK this time. We met a couple of wet hikers here, who got caught in the same shower as us, when we said we were heading back to Harrogate on a 100 mile ride, they asked how many days are you taking to do that!

Our next stop was at Coxwold for a comfort break, and our second thunder storm of the day. We decided to take the most direct route back, which turned out to be the official route anyhow. So on to Morrisons in Boroughbridge, for 5.30 pm where some stayed in the Cafe ,and some carried on to Knaresborough and Harrogate. For Marvin, and Colin this was their furthest trip for a while, so well done to them. Our group all stayed together, and had an enjoyable and mainly dry ride. In all we managed to cover the official route of 103.2 miles with 4,473ft of climbs at an average 14.8 mph. Thanks to Marvin for the info. John E



