

Wednesday, September 26, 2012

Wednesday Rides



Poddlers Ride Report

As the international cycle race circuit seems to be moving out of Europe, there was a noticeable excitement around the start area of the relatively new Giro de Harrogate. A star studded team of SkyPoddle were preparing to start the first stage of this prestigious race.....A Team Time Trail(yes trail)) El Butler and Billy Whizz Wiggins had been joined by top of their game champions, Liz P, Alison N and Jen who had had a summer training at various campsites, holiday resorts and the Tour of GB....Surjon, Maxle Merckz, John W T-Locke, Steve Cummings Perry, James Cavendish Road, Glyn Gillbert and Dave Dowsett Griffiths, the perfect domestiques, (particularly Glyn with his new cook book and Maxle with his new carpet cleaner) and back from a summer of injury Sue d and Caroline just returned from the Maternity Unit de Duke University Hospital Dauphinoise Potato Race . This surely was a slick looking team which set out in perfect harmony from the Hornbeam start, leaving an incomplete team of GarminWEW wondering if the precisely devised Team Time Trail route.... contre montre.... would take in a food stop or would it be underwater. Sadly Dave Preston's Movistar team were also

confused and starting from the Knaresborough Low Bridge area which was completely underwater, had cleverly thought to bring snorkles and diving equipment as they no doubt followed their own routes to a good coffee stop en route for a 80 mile stage. The cobbles of Sprusity Bridge were easily overcome by Team SkyPoddle, despite being swamped by the media; the flooded Grainbeck Lane was easily ascended and the river course swoop into Hampsthwaite gave El Butler a chance to round up and help the less speedy worn out riders. The precipitous climb up to Swincliffe Top gave the grimpeurs chance to show off their strength and 'the Mark Cavendishes without the sprint finish element' chance to show just what they were made of...lead. Down to Kettlesing, up the the Black Bull and on to Penny Pot, certainly no other team could match the form of SkyPoddle, no food stops for these plucky riders. No anything else either as the team swished in synchronised beauty past the Sun in and onto Little Almscliffe. Only Maxle Merckz having chain failure, due to the over excitement of climbing another steep hill, thankfully being helped by the legendary El Butler (what a team player), caused a momentary hiccup of worry as the team regrouped for the final sweep into Beckwithshaw and home in a variety of ways thus nullifying any aspect of winning any race at all...but no one got drowned and we were back for 12 o'clock. Thank you all for your lovely company and kindness in waiting for the leader leading from the rear. 22miles of hills. CG

Wheel Easy Ride Report

I was really excited this morning as I was back on my bike after two days of no cycling. After all the rain we decided to cycle and look at Swinsty, Fewston and Thruscross Reservoirs. Sue, Colin and myself enjoyed the pace and the hills. It was a lovely 32 mile route especially along the Lanes - West End Lane, My Love Lane, Low Lane, Crake Lane and Sheepcote Lane. Unfortunately mine and Sue's observation skills were poor as Colin observed mice, weasels, stoats, rats and jays and we saw nothing. Paul

EG's Ride Report

Although the rain had stopped, and Noah was nowhere to be seen, there was some doubt to how much cycling could be done considering the flood reports for the North of England. Was Harrogate cut off by a flooded plain of York and flooded Dales? Despite this twelve confident riders assembled at Low Bridge, including Peter B who had missed quite a few excursions. The phrase " only comes out once a flood" seemed particularly apt. First stop Angelas Cafe on the A168 and assess the situation over toasted teacakes. Then on to Grafton where the lake that was the plain of York could be seen, as someone remarked "the tide was certainly in". Heading for Lower Dunsforth a 4x4 driver warned of the flooded road ahead at first we were not deterred (we

have waded knee deep before), but told the road to Boroughbridge was even worse. So six (sensible for once) riders headed for Boroughbridge via the B6265 (the old Roman Road) who very sensibly built their roads above the flood plain. The remaining six headed South towards Aldwark (hope to hear from you again) Approaching Boroughbridge from Aldborough the extent of the flooding could be seen, and an estimate of the water on the road would seem to be more like waist deep than knee deep. The Boroughbridge was closed by the police with the emergency services on standby. With the Roecliffe road flooded it was straight back to Harrogate/Knaresborough. A better than expected ride, no rain to speak of and 30 plus miles, we even saw the odd patch of blue sky. Dave P

Leaving Dave P (Pugwash) on a northerly heading towards Boroughbridge followed by his stalwart crew of five the remaining mutineers (Colin,Rob,Theo,Mervyn, Peter B & Dave W.) sailed south towards Green Hammerton via Thorpe Underwood. A brief heave to strip off excess sail and to discuss the next heading all hands agreed to continue towards Cattal through Kirk Hammerton and brave the rising "seas". Here we came across a sight to behold, rumoured to be a Ford Fiesta floundering in the waters of the river Nidd in the village & up to it's gunnels she was. A call for yet a another course to be struck! Retracing our track we made Whixsley cross road, turned west and then tacking south at the next cross roads. Making for Wetherby through Walshford and up the cycle track we moored up at approx. 13.30hrs heading straight for a welcome meal. Fully replenished a voice shouted a storm was a brewing!! The intended course was reset and the crew broke sail to head back towards land. Colin, our one and only real sailor, set sail with Rob via Sicklinghall. The remainder rowed or sailed as you will, towards North Deighton, intending to make a course heading through Spofforth. At the appropriate junction was spotted yet another "Stop" sign, "Road Closed" indicating deep waters. Onwards to Ribston where Theo. Peter & Mervyn were able to change course towards home, Dave W. continuing on his own tack for Knaresborough. All in all the weather had, in the end, treated us well. We had a good ride. The crew performed "admirably" and no one fell overboard. Total mileage for the majority was in the region of 42miles.(Or was it Knots?) Dave W



