

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

## Wednesday Rides

---

### **Poddlers' Ride Report**

A bright sunny Autumn day saw 20 poddlers head out via Lady lane to Beckwithshaw and on up to the car park at Stainburn Moor joined briefly along the way by Malcolm and Gia's group. Due to traffic lights, tyre pumping stops etc the poddlers had become strung out over a distance of about a mile but all were shepherded to the rendezvous by Dennis and Steve acting as reliable middle and back marker respectively. Down Broad Dubb lane and Watson's Lane past the Sun Inn and left down Bedlam Lane. Left on the A59 and then after a short distance (thankfully) right on Meagill Lane to the Bridlepath and through the magic gates at Forest Moor. Towards and past Menwith Hill with great views of Nidderdale on our left. Right after Menwith Hill Station and then a meander around the back lanes to Hampsthwaite where some stopped at Sophie's Cafe and others headed home. Return to Harrogate via Killinghall and Knx bridge. Thanks to Dennis and Steve for ensuring that no one was lost along the way despite the maze of back lanes. 25 miles.  
Dave G





### **Wednesday Ride Report**

Fuel Poverty is obviously a major problem in Harrogate as so many old folks had joined the rides in order to save on heating bills. The prospect of solar power saw a superb turnout for a Wednesday with no fewer than four different rides setting off from Hornbeam. Catching up with the Poddlers beyond Beckwithshaw led to lots of chatter and all the hot air provided a boost of combined heat and power as we headed over the hills to Timble and then down to Ilkley. Cafe Stazione at Ilkley provided a dual fuel warming of sandwiches and coffee before we set out on our return via Ben Rhydding, Otley and Farnley. By this time wind power had taken over giving an added energy boost as we climbed up past Lindley reservoir. Soon the pressures of hydro generation led to a few enforced hedgerow stops, before enjoying a fast energy recovery decent down to Burn Bridge. By this time we were losing the sunshine so we appreciated our insulation. Then it was a return to our (nuclear?) families having covered 38 spectacular miles with great hills and views. Martin W



### **Lotherton Hall Ride Report**

Hornbeam was bathed in sunshine for the start of this morning's rides and Richard had a plan to make the most of what was perhaps the last of the good weather and head for Hawnby. I needed to get back for about 1.30pm as I was expecting a delivery from John Lewis so whilst tempting Hawnby was a no go. Others had their own reasons for wanting to get back early including Martin who was due to catch the 2.00pm flight from Leeds Bradford to Heathrow in order to connect with a flight to Australia for a three week holiday. I suggested Lotherton Hall based upon the time available and the rising southerly wind. In the event eight of us including Richard (who failed to get a quorum which given the weather was a shame) set off to Wetherby via Follifoot, Spofforth & Kirk Deighton. Martin peeled off at Wattlesyke and the rest of us continued to Lotherton Hall which was busy due to half term but we managed to get the last big table. After tea and cakes we split with four of us who were time poor heading back to Harrogate via Clifford, Boston Spa and Wetherby Racecourse. Richard, Terry and Lesley headed off towards Tadcaster with the intention of making more of a day of it. AndyC.

From Lotherton Terry Lesley and Richard continued (as a too good to waste the weather day) with a flat but enjoyable ride on indirect ways to "Selby Abbey cafe"- friendly but not in the abbey, via Cawood Wistows and dykes. TPT and the planets to the in progress Askham Bar P&R. More variations but no bids for the prison, will we get back before the heavens open yes because they did not, it just went very dark. 78m.

### **EGs' Ride Report**

Bright sun and a good forecast meant we had sixteen riders at Low Bridge for the first Wednesday Autumn ride in GMT. The weather according to different forecasts was meant to change between 3-00 and 5-00 pm. The riders split into groups to make their own way to Angela's cafe, this helps on weekday roads and also lessens cafe shock, though a phone call had already warned Angela of a visitation by hungry cyclists. On the way Peter J punctured, to combat punctures Dave W devised a puncture proof method of transportation (see photo). After a fair number of toasted teacakes and scones had been consumed it was south in the sun to Great Ouseburn, Thorpe Underwood and Whixley, where the two frustrated members of Martin's Sunday team, Dave P and Roy plus the EG's made another attempt on the small lane and the level crossing. Evidence of Sunday's snarl up was still in evidence as the area looked like the two tractors involved had been taking part in a mud wrestling competition. Then down the cycle path to Wetherby and Morrisons cafe for more substantial sustenance consisting of main courses and puddings. The EG's know how to live. We were now down to twelve riders, Dave S and Eric returning via the main road to Knaresborough, the remaining ten via the ridge to Sicklinghall and Kirkby Overblow arriving in Harrogate around 3-15pm to just miss the weather change with approximately 42 miles in our wheels. For once "the cunning plan" worked Baldrick. Dave P



