

Wednesday, November 27, 2013

## Wednesday Rides

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### Poddlers Ride Report

Every Poddler that ever was turned up at Hornbeam Park at 9.20 this morning, or so it seems... almost. Dave G back from Italy, Steve not having his gall bladder sorted out, John Wood not gardening and grandchild minding, John Winterburn not bee-keeping, Alison N not falling over on grandchildren, Linda McLean not doing nursing duties, Gordon not at a Christening, David A not being busy. Allison not working, Liz not dancing, Jane not on holiday, Sue not entertaining visitors, Jen and Glyn not off on a Groupon jaunt, Caroline and Max not packing a case, Monica not doing other things, James not undressing ladies locked into anoraks, Geraldine not curing the sick of Harrogate, Paul B. not scouring the super markets for bargains, Dennis not swimming the channel, Julie not in Miami, Marish not in France, and everyone else not doing other things, were there ready to go. Now the route was a cleverly concocted mixture of rides we had not done for ages, which seemed to involve turning the opposite way to what we were expecting. Two groups (a fourteen and a twelve) of Poddlers' left Harrogate and the slower group, with strict instructions not to miss out any loops, kept glimpsing the faster group as we progressed along identical routes. We had not left Knaresborough before Saint Glyn of the puncture kit flashed into action and mended Lynda's puncture. Onwards to Farnham, Ferrensby, Arkendale, left at the pub to Staveley, right after the village to Cowthorpe, Burton Leonard, Wormald Green, to Markington. At this point the carefree, problem free ride disintegrated into yet another chapter of the St.Gyn of the puncture kit saga. My chain snapped, whilst in a low gear going up the steep hill to the Drovers' corner, within seconds we were up to our elbows in WD40 and swarfeger wipes and my chain was mended. At the egg farm there were no eggs, and at Ripley no time to stop. Unlike the speedy group, half of whom went into Ripley for refreshments of different sorts, eventually meeting up with the other group and swapping news and where abouts of friends and relations, as the rest of the speedy Poddlers declined and dashed home with important things to do. Thanks for all the waiting, mending and support and as one Poddler puts it that is what riding in a group is all about. What fun! 32 miles on a bonus day Caroline G.





### **Wednesday Ride Report**

Colin had a plan, so a group of ten set off to Rispliths for a planned stop at G&T's not to be confused with an early morning G&T! Kevin, Martin D and Colin followed plan A while the rest of us trooped down to Ripon for our coffee stop. It was a fine run, great weather and long views and some good hills. Martin and Yvonne added another loop while Sue, Sarah, Jennifer, Paul and Gia returned via Bishop Monkton and Knaresborough. Climbing the newly surfaced Beryl Burton we met two of the Poddlers and after some lively chat all went our separate ways. 37 miles on a fine winters day. Gia M

And then there were three..... A fine morning and good weather prospects saw 10 riders gathered for the Medium ride. After a short discussion it was agreed to coffee at Risplith and decide on the rest of the route over a hot drink. Along the Greenway and past the Drovers and on to Sawley saw the group spread out and Martin, Kevin and Colin were the first to arrive and get their coffee and cake order in. Once everyone else arrived a minor 'mutiny' occurred and after some discussion it had been decided on a change of plan to now coffee in Ripon -leaving the bemused three (along with the coffee shop owners) on their own. As the rest rode off in to the distant it was decided that as it was a fine day to ride to Dallowgill Moor (one of Colins favourite rides) and then make our way to Ripon and home. What a great decision....a fine ride up to the Moor and then a swoop down through Laverton and Galphay into Ripon and a second stop at the Sun Parlour café for Martins debut visit. After tea and cake it was the charge for home via Littlethorpe, Bishop Monkton, Markington and the Drovers crossroads before swooping down to Ripley and the Greenway back

into Harrogate. The 'mutineers' don't know what they missed. A great ride, great views and big skies and two good café stops and a total of 47 hilly miles-and it's nearly December! Thanks to Colin and Martin for dragging me around –a real winter bonus ride today Kevin D





### **Long Ride Report**

With a forecast of sunshine and a temperature of 10°C what an opportunity to enjoy a tour of Wharfedale! Phil, Richard and David set off to Fewston, Timble then Askwith where Phil left us to return home. We continued to Langbar with brilliant views of Haws Pike then to Dusty Bluebells tearoom (Strid) to enjoy tea and cake sitting outside in the sunshine; what a treat and it's almost December! We returned to Harrogate via Parcival Hall, Stump Cross Caverns and Greenhow. 56 miles on my cycle computer and 4,095 ft of ascent and two banana breaks to enjoy the stunning views. David R

### **EG's Ride Report**

An early morning text handed the baton to myself (Deputy Dave W. - Dave S. dropped it; too many "Daves" these days) by our usual leader Dave P who'd been cajoled into extra "Homework" by "Her indoors" so was unable to join the E.G's Wednesday ride this week.

The outlook was more than favourable and for November it seemed it was going to be a great day for a ride. Twelve E.G's joined me for the usual mystery tour which has become my trademark, with the first stop-off scheduled at Fountains Visitor's Centre.

Plans went quickly to pot when Peter B. spotted a large thorn protruding from his front tyre between Scriven & Lingerfield. Extricating it carefully, with fingers crossed (his other hand of course), it was thought he may have got away with it but by Nidd village the puncture was unfortunately apparent. Four E.G's gave moral support, or indeed, in Dave S's case, help to replace the tube whilst the remainder of the riders were sent on their way to enjoy their morning break at Fountains. After some delay we caught up with them, managed quickly to scoff a scone with liquid accompaniment, or whatever, trying to ignore Roy's cooked lunch, and then we were ready to be on our way. Unfortunately it was by now after 12.30pm and the planned ride (in my head!) had not got underway.

At this early stage four riders (John R.; Norman; Terry & Roy) decided to leave us to venture off towards home (was it something I said?) leaving nine riders to press on. The route meandered around Aldfield, Low Grantley, Laverton & Kirkby Malzeard, heading north through Grewelthorpe and then with a twist down through the 1:5 to Mickley, extra care being taken on the rough descent. By now it was obvious that it was too late to take in Masham so we continued criss-crossing to Ripon where we headed for our usual watering hole, the "Sun Parlour", in the Spa Gardens.

Everyone refuelled it was mooted, by some, that we may now head off directly home but insomuch as the weather was so good for November and it was still only 2:15pm I encouraged seven E.G's to return via the loop through Skelton & Boroughbridge, Peter R leaving us to head off home directly from Ripon.

From here we pressed on through Minskip and onwards towards home, arriving in Knaresborough about 3:20pm., just about time to put lights on. Despite the few hiccups and a brief rant (not from

me) about road manners & discipline it turned out to be a good ride. Plenty of friendly banter (mostly anyways), good company a reasonable pace through terrain which was hopefully satisfactory to most.

Estimated mileage for the majority from Harrogate would be around 50 - 55 miles. ----- David W.