

Sunday, July 30, 2006

Wheel Easy! Ride Report No. 13



Long ride report to follow

Short Ride.

Two new members today so time to review the route along the footpaths of Harrogate led by Carey and Gia.

The route down to the end of Hornbeam and onto the footpath and fields behind St John Fisher is always a surprise to people who don't know it. It leads on to the Yorkshire Showground and includes a nice downhill section on lovely smooth tarmac.

We cross the road at Sainsbury's to the tip where there is another great cyclepath section which leads out to the roundabout near Morrison's. Here we braved the traffic and biked along Forest Moor Road to Knaresborough and to the safety of the waterside route along the river. The climb out of Knaresborough on the dedicated cyclepath alongside the road is noisier but easier than the Beryl Burton Cycleway and in any case offers an alternative.

Finally we cycled down Bogs Lane, into Kingsley Drive and out on to the Stray.

It was a fine morning and I hope a good introduction for our new members.

It is worth noting that everyone started on these shorter rides and after a matter of weeks all have progressed and gained the confidence to tackle the longer rides. Today there were 4 on the short ride, 8 on the intermediate and 13 on the long ride of about 35 miles to Tadcaster led by Phil Hall.

Sue Threadgold has offered to lead the short ride next week (August 6th)

At the moment we have no leader for either an intermediate ride or a long ride. Any offers??

Keith Paley is leading the ride on August 13th.

Gia

Intermediate Ride

Eight intrepid riders set off from Hornbeam Park and crossed Leeds Road into Leadhall Lane,

turning left into Burn Bridge Road, and stopped off at the Black Swan pub after 10 minutes for a drink...oops, I mean to collect the camera! Then, into Brackenthwaite Lane and the first hill of the day past the riding school - not for the faint hearted! Sarah thought that she saw buzzards circling overhead waiting for those that didn't make it, but fortunately these turned out to be red kites, and we all arrived safely (better luck next time boys). At the end of Brackenthwaite Lane, we turned left, but not before the first photo stop of the day, and a well-earned water break. In North Rigton, and after hill number 2, we turned right towards Almscliffe Crag, which is where the second photo was taken. Everyone is looking fresh and happy thinking that we'd conquered all the hills - but further challenges lay in wait.

Hill number 3 took us up the Otley Road back towards Beckwithshaw and past the new gas pipeline - deep breaths not advisable here if the wind is in the 'wrong' direction due to some strong smells near the top! Into Beckwithshaw and the last rest on the ride at the Smith's Arms (hmmm...a bit of a pub theme in this ride), and back up the Otley Road into Harrogate along the cycle path, a bit overgrown in places, so taking care to avoid being whipped by overhanging branches.

The total distance was about 12 miles (thanks to Sarah for measuring), and it took us around 2 hours to complete. Well done to everyone who participated - those I spoke to said they enjoyed the ride. The weather was kind to us, with the occasional welcome breeze along the way, along with great views across Wharfedale towards Cookridge, and also to Ilkley Moor from Almscliffe Crag.

Thanks to Stuart and his bright yellow tabard for being the back marker. Sadly, Stuart and I are on holiday for the next couple of weeks, so won't be able to join in again until 20th August. I would be happy to lead another intermediate ride on that date (Beckwithshaw to Penny Pot, Sun Inn, back to Beckwithshaw). This would be somewhat of a hilly ride (in a similar vein to today's), and so subject to interest. See you all then!

Lorraine

The long ride led by Phil took us to Spofforth via Hookstone, Crimple Lane and Follifoot then on to the cycleway and along to Wetherby. Clearing the town we made our way by more cycle tracks and quiet side roads through the attractive villages of Thorp Arch and Boston Spa amid the glorious Yorkshire fields of grain and the inevitable oilseed rape. Where the fields had already been harvested the residual bales of straw were piled up awaiting collection.

Over the Wharfe a couple of times and both over and under the A1 soon found us negotiating the traffic in Tadcaster. Then against a slightly stiffer breeze than we have been encountering of late we made good progress back in the direction of Thorp Arch (noting a signpost indicating the nearby HM Prison) and before long it was back to Wetherby where we returned home by our outward route of Spofforth and Follifoot. It had been another very fine morning's exercise in excellent weather through lovely countryside.

Overall we completed some 65K or to put it in perhaps more understandable terms about 40 miles. Phew!

Crawford