

Sunday, November 12, 2006

Wheel Easy! Ride Report No. 28



After the high winds and downpour of the previous day, Sunday came up trumps again with a fine morning which brought 25 Wheel Easy! regulars and new members to the start at Hornbeam station. Once Gia was sure we had understood her instructions 22 of us (average age about 45) dutifully followed her towards Oak Bank and Pennypot Lane, while Caroline and Sue set off on a more direct route to rendezvous with the main group later in the morning.

Along Pennypot we turned into the entrance to Haverah Park for our first photo of the day, and more significantly to observe the two minute silence at 11am. Then we continued along the tarmac path into the Park, over a short stretch of field track where several were obliged to dismount and push, and down past Beaver Dyke and Scargill reservoirs. Finally we emerged on the Norwood Road below Little Almscliffe where four riders took a more direct home back along Pennypot. The rest cycled to and again off road through Stainburn Woods, then down to Leathley and beyond to cross the A658 near Pool.

From here, with the warming sun on our backs, we followed one of our favourite Wheel Easy! routes on the quiet and mostly flat road through Castley and Weeton to Dunkeswick. Turning north for a short stretch of the dreaded A61, we turned right towards Kirkby Overblow where several riders took advantage of one of the village's excellent hostelrys before the final section over the by pass and through Pannal back to Harrogate. In all, around 27 miles.

MM

Having decided to follow a less strenuous (ie flatter) route than fitter members Caroline and Sue set a sedate pace and headed for Hookstone Woods and hence to Beckwithshaw via Mallinson Way, Rossett Drive, the new cycle/pedestrian way beside it and Rossett School, Green Lane, Whinney Lane, Lady Lane, Cardale and Otley Road. This was achieved in 40 minutes interspersed with references to the vagaries of appropriate gears/position of saddle/possibility of rain.

They then turned right and left into Moor Park and continued through to the Norwood Road and achieved the long pull to Little Almscliffe where they waited for the main group who arrived looking fresh faced and raring to continue. Max and John joined them to ride back to Harrogate.

A lovely ride lasting an hour and half during which Sue learned the significance of gear ratios and managed with much encouragement from Caroline to reach the lights beside the Pine Marten - but why did they have to change? Hill starts next time ...
SD



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Wheel Easy! Ride Report No. 28 - More photos



