

Sunday, January 14, 2007

Wheel Easy! Ride Report No. 37



Twenty nine cyclists assembled at Hornbeam Park railway station for a slightly delayed start while we welcomed several new riders and then held top level negotiations on the important matter of whose route we were going to follow. Finally it was agreed that the long ride would go to Ripon today and Blubberhouses as soon as possible.

The excellent turnout meant that we split into three groups with Phil and Caroline leading the intermediate and short routes respectively, following sections of the long ride before taking an earlier turn home.

About half the group took the longer option, buoyed by another wonderful Wheel Easy! sunny and mild Sunday and were soon in Knaresborough, varying the usual route to Farnham by taking the lovely loop through Scriven and Lingerfield. Then it was the familiar easy route north, through Copgrove and Bishop Monkton to Ripon.

Here we were concerned to find we had lost Stuart and several riders went off in various directions to find him. The group's wealth of modern technology including mobile phones and Paul's 2-way walkie talkie set proved indispensable in eventually reuniting all riders, though with time moving on Tony and Peter felt this was a good moment to return home.

Bill led the remainder beside the river, along a short stretch of the B6265 and then left along a fine road, new to most of us, down into Studley Royal and the Deer Park. Here, after a photo stop under the archway, we climbed steadily up the long gentle hill to the church at the top, and with three riders pressing on, nine of us stopped at the deservedly busy visitor centre cafe.

Refreshed, we swooped down to Fountains Abbey, then took a right fork and the ideal new (to Wheel Easy!) traffic free Low Gate Lane to Sawley. A joyous downhill and challenging climb past Hebden Wood brought us back to our usual route and magnificent views towards the White Horse at Kilburn. At the Drovers Inn three riders went straight on to Ripley, while the rest

returned via Bishop Thornton, Shaw Mills, Clint and Hampsthwaite, completing a fine ride approaching 40 miles along Pennypot Lane and up Oak Bank.
MM

A group of twelve 'wheel-easyers', (of no particular political persuasion) set out with three new members, Ted, Kath and Pauline, down to Calcutt and on to Abbey Road. From there we weaved through the houses and made our way to Farnham, where two riders took the turn left to Nidd and Ripley, up the steep hill and on to Arkendale. Turning right past the church we went on to Coneythorpe and Goldsborough. After a short break, it was back to Abbey Road, via Manse lane, and finally up Hookstone Chase and home.
PH

