

Sunday, March 11, 2007

Wheel Easy! Ride Report No. 45



Despite some hard publicity and trying to convince many that the 46 mile round trip would be fairly easy, only 10 brave riders set off on the long ride. We set off last after the mass departure of the medium ride group, not leaving until nearly 10:15 to allow a reasonable gap between groups. We headed for Knaresborough and caught up with the short ride group on Halfpenny Lane where, despite their concerns about us needing a break, we took to some of the less well known paths around the bottom of Knaresborough. The 10 remained together but expected to lose Paul at Aldwark Bridge where he was going to turn back due to time constraints. He was enjoying the ride and the weather so much that he stuck with us all the way round (hope you weren't too late back!)

Arriving in Easingwold we were not too surprised that the scope for finding refreshments was very limited. Malcolm and Gia came to the rescue and, in honour of Fairtrade Fortnight, bought everyone a chocolate roll.

I managed, despite several complaints, to prise the group away from their bikes for a picture on the Green in Easingwold (they even took their helmets off!)

We set off for the run back via Helperby and Boroughbridge. As usual, we encountered the head wind on the return leg and this slowed progress down a little. However, the sunshine made it a glorious ride and the wind just meant that we got to ride for longer.

In Boroughbridge, four headed straight for home, Paul leading the charge with only an hour left on his clock. Six had a very leisurely lunch in a café before returning back at various paces. We were a little over the advertised mileage and ended up nearer to 50.

This was my first go at leading a ride and it was a lot easier than I had worried about it being. Nobody expects you to be at the front all the time and you can still go out and enjoy your day. Please consider volunteering to lead. You never know, you may have a route that nobody else has done before. I caught my group out with some new, much appreciated roads in Knaresborough.

Please let me know if you are willing to have a go
Brian T

A record 21 wheel-easyers opted to tackle the intermediate distance ride today. The route took us from Hornbeam to Starbeck, down the Beryl Burton, through Knareborough and out on the Boroughbridge road. With the sun in the sky and wind at our backs, we turned off to Farnham, and continued on to Burton Leonard and alongside the babbling brook at Bishop Monkton lined with daffodils. Turning right here, took us toward Roecliffe and the start of the bridle path to Copgrove. At this point three veterans opted to carry on to Boroughbridge for refreshment, leaving the rest to continue back toward Knaresborough. On reaching Farnham, the group split again with some wanting to extend the ride via Arkendale, Coneythorpe and Goldsborough, whilst the rest took the direct route home either to watch the football or to make it home for Sunday lunch. It was an excellent ride of about 23-25 miles taking around 2½ hours.
PH

Three eager and keen short slow riders set out towards Morrisons, to be magically joined by two keener and more eager riders. Due to enthusiasm and stamina the ride lengthened itself and we ended up at Knaresborough, only to show up the long fast riders, who tried to overtake us and then needed a cafe or something stop at a roundabout on the outskirts of town. We however continued and lost John with the excuse that he was back at his house. The ride continued and much to the leader's relief everyone walked up the Beryl Burton cycle hill towards Harrogate. Having lost the other male rider with more excuses about being near his home the three plucky females made it back to Harrogate via the Bilton cycle path to a cheery little cafe run by the ride leader. A ride of about 12 miles completed in about one and three quarter hours, excellent good fun.
CG

