

Sunday, May 20, 2007

Wheel Easy! Ride Report No. 55 and Craven Festival



Eleven riders went on the long ride to Ilkley. We were particularly pleased to welcome Bill W for the first time since his accident some 10 weeks ago, and clearly back to full form. It was a beautiful morning and the route had stunning views along the way. We went at a good pace via Burn Bridge, North Rigton, Almscliffe Crag, Leathley, Otley and Askwith. We stopped for coffee and cakes at the Avanti coffee shop in Ilkley. The owner once again gave us a warm welcome. Three riders could not resist the temptation of visiting the local bike shop and the remaining eight rode back on the same route to Otley. We then returned to Harrogate via Castley, Weeton, Dunkeswick and Kirkby Overblow. It was a great ride and we covered over 40 miles.
Paul T

A group of 10 set off on a beautiful Sunday morning for the medium ride, the weather conditions just couldn't have been better. As there was no short ride, the pace was fairly sedate to ensure that everyone kept together and that Bill, a first time Wheel Easy rider got to see the benefits of riding with a group.

We headed for Knaresborough via Forest Moor and followed the same route as last week until turning right along Hay a Park. We turned right and took the track towards the railway crossing and the A59. A kind motorist told us that we weren't allowed to go that way but I didn't have chance to thank him. The route continued through Goldsborough, Flaxby and Coneythorpe where we turned right in the village to follow the road through to Arkendale. There was a brief stop for a picture outside the Bluebell Pub (wasn't open yet!) and a short discussion about the benefits of CTC membership.

Fully rested, we headed for Staveley, Farnham, Lingerfield and back into Knaresborough. We then split up as several took alternative routes home. A lovely ride in perfect weather. 24 Miles.
Brian T

Additional note - MM

My visit, along with Steve and Neeta, to the excellent JD Cycles, proved highly profitable, especially to the owner of the shop. I failed to ask what they had invested in, except for Neeta's superb new saddle on their tandem, but my puncture repair rapidly developed to include a new saddle, bottom bracket, wheel truing and brake adjustment as I proved to be putty in the hands of their friendly salesmen. While this work was going on I tried out a total of four demo bikes. I'm not sure that any will give me the extra 5mph I need to keep up with the rest of the long ride, but the lure of a proper road bike could well prove irresistible.

BRIEF REPORT ON THE CRAVEN FESTIVAL TOURING RIDES - from Martin W

Despite the attractions of a number of other events in North Yorkshire 18 riders turned out for the touring rides starting from Settle on Sunday 20 May. It was good to see representation from both the Loiterers and Wheel Easy at the rides.

The sun shone, most of the time, and fortunately the wind had dropped quite a bit from the day before making riding a delight in this very green and scenic area. I understand Brian Mawson led the Loiterers and the Wheel Easy contingent to a long cafe stop in Ingleton. It is good to see our CTC traditions being upheld so well.

It did become clear in later conversations that the Loiterers had ridden the toughest part of the long ride on the day before in the very high winds. Surviving a force 8 gale on Catlow Fell deserves a long cafe stop the day afterwards in my opinion.

Well done to all concerned and thanks for supporting this event in its first year. All comments have been noted and will be fed back to the Festival organisers so there should be an improved event with more activities at Settle next year.



