

Sunday, May 27, 2007

## Wheel Easy! Ride Report No. 56

---



### Long Ride Report.....

Despite the threat of rain to come, ten souls signed up with Keith for the long ride, planned to Brimham Rocks via Clint Bank and Fiddler's Green, then past Warsill to Raventofts, Watergate, Haddockstones (get the map out folks!), and back via several possible alternative routes... It was to be an eventful ride.

All was fine until Burnt Yates when Martin and Yvonne (tandem) shed two bits of chain and quickly, albeit reluctantly, realised that their day in the saddle was done. Along the road to Brimham Rocks another of the group, who shall be nameless, received a call that he had his wife's car keys on his person and that he should 'get back home sharpish!

The rain started at the rocks, and by the downhill sweep towards Ripon was teaming down. Halfway down the hill Keith decided it would be fun to view the road from a different angle, so put on his brakes quickly, wobbled, and slid down 20 yards of tarmac on his side. Thankfully no bones were broken, but not a trick he will be repeating in the short term - hopefully!

Despite a brief let up, on reaching the turn-off towards the Tower it was teaming again. So seven very wet, very cold, survivors cut short what by then had become more of a toil than a pleasure, and splashed home through Ripley and to their respective favourite modes of post-ride recuperation. KP

### Medium Ride.....

A good turn out of 24 riders gathered at Hornbeam car park despite the threatening weather and the forthcoming Bank Holiday.

Eleven riders opted for the medium ride, the route being;

Left on Hookstone Road crossing the Leeds Road at the traffic lights and on to Rossett Green.

Left turn and down the hill to Pannal village, crossing the Leeds Road again at the traffic lights passing Pannal golf club. Straight on and first turn right to cross the A658 to Hags Road.

Into Spofforth and joining the cycle track (old railway line) to Wetherby. This is 9 miles from the car park and gave the option for an 18 mile return ride. One rider who was pushed for time chose this option.

Out of Wetherby on the cycle track again this time passing the racecourse, where we met two members of the NYDA committee (Gerry and Trevor). Crossing the Walton road picking up the new cycle track (same former railway line) to Thorp Arch trading estate (old ordnance factory) and a welcome tea at the café. The rain came down while taking tea and refreshment and then very kindly stopped when we came out. The route was repeated back to Spofforth where some riders took more convenient routes to back home. DP

Short Ride.....

The short ride took us on the cycle track to Bilton, round the bottom of the estate, on to Knox ford and the A61. Here we crossed the busy road, and by-passed Killinghall, to arrive in Ripley. As the journey was "make it up as you go along" we decided to take the bridle path through the woods to Hampsthwaite. We continued through a shower of rain, and headed up the notoriously steep Rowden Lane towards the Army Apprentice College. Journey's end was at Harlow Hill, with a distance of 12-13 miles being covered. PH

Photo below shows bridge over new Sustrans route from Wetherby to Thorp Arch.



