

Sunday, June 3, 2007

Wheel Easy! Ride Report No. 57



Long ride

Six cyclists set off for a 50km gentle ride to Tadcaster. The route took us past Rudding Park, on to Hags Lane, Spofforth and the cycle path to Linton. At Collingham we turned right to Boston Spa, and right again into Bramham. Here we picked up the Roman road which leads to Tadcaster. To avoid traffic, we opted for the quiet road through Sutton and into the town centre, where we stopped for a brew.

After refreshments we headed over the river and up to Wighill. Turning left, we soon reached the Thorp Arch Trading Estate, where we joined the cycle path, which took us to Wetherby and on to Spofforth. The last leg of journey was back via Follifoot and Rudding Park. The estimated distance of 50km and duration of 3½ hrs was in fact 63km and 4½ hrs but this didn't lessen anyone's enjoyment of the ride. PH

Medium ride

Ten riders followed a 35 mile route, starting out towards Calcutt and over the Low Bridge at Knaresborough. They continued along Breary Flat Lane to Barr Lane and Boroughbridge Road and then via Lingerfield to Farnham, Minskip and Boroughbridge. The return journey was through Roecliffe and Bishop Monkton and then back to Farnham, most riders going their separate ways from Forest Lane Head. DB

Short ride

"A tour of the local supermarkets - are you off your trolley!" - "No, you will really enjoy it because it also takes in scenic views of Harrogate's recycling facility."

With such a sales pitch it was no wonder that six people took this option including two new riders (welcome). We set off at our usual leisurely pace to St George's roundabout and up St. Georges Road. Here Caroline went into auto mode and had to be restrained from continuing

to Beckwithshaw. We followed the path alongside the cricket ground, accompanied by the gentle thwack of willow on leather, through Mallinson, Fulwith Mill and along the track passing St Michael's Hospice, Crimple golf course, the showground and the first supermarket (Sainsburys). Before carefully crossing Wetherby Road we feasted our eyes on the glorious vista of the recycling facility, locally known as the tip!

We continued along the (new to some) path before emerging at Hookstone Chase. Here several of us had to be held back from doing "wheelies" as we traversed the car park at Morrisons. Skirting the second of our supermarkets we continued to Starbeck. Turning off at The Avenue we followed the old railway path to Bilton. A sharp left turn took us back along the track to the New Claro Bridge. Avoiding the temptation to take the path to Asda, but giving back pockets the traditional 'pat - de dum dum', we avoided the potential of broken glass and followed Claro Avenue to the Stray. Here Tom left us to cycle back home to Starbeck. We congratulated him on his achievements and later felt somewhat humbled when age was mentioned. Park Parade, New Park Rd, Victoria Ave and South Park Road took us to the holy of holies the back entrance to Waitrose! (sadly the last of our supermarkets). Here the ride leader, having another appointment, handed over to Caroline to complete the ride. The remaining four riders were last seen fathoming the intricacies of the York Place cyclists traffic lights before heading down Stray Rein to complete an additional loop to Rossett and returning to Hornbeam.

Another glorious ride. MG

