

Sunday, July 15, 2007

Wheel Easy! Ride Report No. 63



A group of 19 set off on an overcast Sunday morning for the medium ride. The weather was threatening rain but as we set off the sun shone for us. As there was no short ride, the pace was fairly sedate to try and keep the group together, although we split into two smaller groups to give traffic somewhere to pull in.

We headed for Kirkby Overblow, but had a very early stop to read the map as the ride leaders were lost! Put right by another rider we headed off, via Walton Head Lane, leaving Kirkby Overblow we spotted a deer in the crops in the field to our left, which then leapt the fence and crossed the road in front of us, leaping the wall on the other side effortlessly. The views along here were beautiful, with the Vale of York on one side and the Wharfe Valley on the other. We passed through Sicklinghall on our way to Wetherby and the cycle route to Spofforth. These cycle routes are definitely not designed for tandems, to get through the barriers we had to remove both panniers and tip the tandem up onto its back wheel and wheel through, but they are pleasantly traffic free!

In Spofforth we headed up Hags Road, a long pull up to the by-pass, but were rewarded by a Red Kite hovering and flying along with us for a short way. Crossing the very busy by-pass we headed for Rudding Lane and back and arrived in Harrogate just as the first drops of the afternoon's rain were falling. 21 Miles. LT

Day of the Big Picnic on the Stray and everyone had been studying weather forecasts and hoping they might have got it wrong. Well most of the riding team got their ride in before the rain came down and by then five of us were ensconced in a delightful café in North Street in Wetherby as recommended by Jill. An excellent recommendation as the devotee of cheese cake will testify.

Our long ride route of around 40 miles was out to Almscliffe Crag via Burn Bridge and North Rigton, on to Leathley, Castley, Weeton and Kirkby Overblow. There we "lost" two riders who

decided they could get home for Sunday lunch and make the Big Picnic. The rest of us wheeled down in to Wetherby, having checked that we weren't required at the Stray, had our refreshments and togged up in our wet weather gear for the return via Spofforth and Follifoot. We welcomed a new rider today, sorry about the weather! GM

