

Sunday, September 9, 2007

## Wheel Easy! Ride Report No. 71

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Audax events. The continuing sunny weather encouraged a superb turnout of 46 riders for the first Audax event run from Ripon, including about a dozen from Wheel Easy! It was based on the country lanes to the north of the city. The start was at the Spa Gardens Sun Parlour Café where the owners supported the event with a warm welcome and facilities for the organisers.

The 100km route headed North via Kirkby Malzeard to Masham, with spectacular long distance views, and then on to Jervaulx Abbey for a café stop. Continuing to East Witton and then along the lanes east of Leyburn the route passed through Snape, and under the A1 to Skipton-on-Swale. It was then a return to Ripon via Topcliffe, Cundall and Boroughbridge. The 50km route similarly took the riders to Masham and then turned back via Snape and south to Ripon.

The finish at the Spa Gardens Café was "buzzing" as this is such a popular destination for cyclists. A large group from Otley CC who were enjoying a break on a long ride joined us at the cafe.

Thanks to all the riders who supported this first Ripon event, and particular thanks to those cyclists "braving" their first Audax. I hope they will go on to try other Audax Events in the future - see the CTC North Yorks website for details.

More next year! MW

Medium ride. A group of 10 set off from Hornbeam. It was originally intended to arrive at Kirkby Overblow along the track to Fulwith Mill Lane and then down to the farm, up to Pannal and across via bridletack to the Harrogate Ring road from where we could join the road to Kirkby Overblow. However careful research of the route on Friday lunchtime last week revealed the bridge along that way is currently missing due to flood damage some weeks ago. I mention it in case anyone else may venture in that direction

We therefore adopted the usual route via Burn Bridge and from Kirkby Overblow continued on to Kearby and then Netherby. There is from Netherby a good-ish quality track down to the Wharfe and Harewood Bridge although I would agree it is perhaps better suited to mountain bike tyres than the road bikes.

Taking the road to Arthington we entered more bridleway tracks within the Harewood estate of better quality ie really metalled roadway giving a way through to Weardley village before rejoining the main road to Pool a mile or two further up and avoiding the traffic.

At Pool the consensus was to decline the attractions of the White Hart and press on despite the heat ! We continued to Leathley and Stainburn. At the latter we took the road home via North Rigton and Brackenthwaite Lane.

Although only 28 miles the last few were consistently up and down quite steep hills giving the party a strenuous but enjoyable finish to the ride. SB

Short ride. What a fine day for a "short" ride to Beckwithshaw via Daleside, Ashville and the Squinting Cat then on to Little Almscliff by way of Manor Park. Usual good views in all directions before descending to Norwood and we were not long getting to Penny Pot Lane where we made excellent progress back to Harrogate after a good 20 miles. Well done to the accompanying two ladies and me who were only outfaced at the last by the steep climb up to Harlow Moor Road.  
CM