

Sunday, September 16, 2007

Wheel Easy! Ride Report No. 72



Ten participated in the 35 mile Wheel Easy long ride. The Nidd was followed upstream from Hampsthwaite to the toll crossing just west of Birstwith. Hartwith was passed then Brimham Moor before descending into Pateley Bridge for lunch. At least one rider celebrated his first successful bike ride from Harrogate to Pateley. Refreshed, the cyclists made short work of the ascent to Braithwaite Moor and descent to Thruscross. We were blown back to Harrogate by a freshening wind via Delves Ridge and Stainburn Moor. All returned home dry remembering the spectacular views from the moors, enhanced by the threatening clouds building to the west. WW

Eighteen riders opted for the medium ride. For safety reasons we split into two groups and Phil led the first group and Paul the second. We rode via Burn Bridge and Brackenthwaite Lane to North Rigton. At North Rigton two riders decided to go their own way. Both groups met at Almscliff Crag and continued together to Stainburn, Leathley and Castley where six riders took off at a faster pace. The remaining ten stayed as a group and ambled through Weeton, Dunkeswick and Kirkby Overblow where we split into smaller groups to make our way home to different parts of Harrogate. It was a lovely ride with stunning views and a few challenging hills. It is one of the nicest shorter rides within a short distance from Harrogate. PT

What a tempting ride after a lay off of 5 weeks - the supermarkets of Harrogate -BACKWARDS. Three slow easy riders were tempted to attack this tour of the supermarkets. We set off strongly catching up with the rather surprised long fast ride at the first set of traffic lights, thus spurring them into a burst of speed and the distant hills of Pateley Bridge. We travelled along Rayleigh Road towards the Stray and Waitrose discussing Nigella's new recipes and a war museum in Caen. Moving swiftly onto the Asda path to Bilton and the cycle track to Starbeck we met many Sunday riders enjoying the countryside. As we hurtled into Starbeck the sun shone but a strong north westerly wind slowed us down even more than the talking. Onwards to Morrisons and out

onto Wetherby Road via Wedderburn, thus actually avoiding Sainsbury's and the Flower Show. Before crossing the Saints to Oatlands Drive one member of the team went home to get a drink of hot lemon and honey to cure his man flu, and the ride finished up on St. Georges roundabout, having completed a 10 mile jaunt round Harrogate's cycle paths. CG