

Sunday, October 7, 2007

Wheel Easy! Ride Report No. 75



Long Ride

The first Wheel Easy cycle and splash ride saw twelve riders (the Dirty Dozen?) setting off from Hornbeam Park for our ride to Pateley Bridge swimming pool. The route was out through Knox village, to Killinghall and Hampsthwaite and then climbing up to Burnt Yates to follow the Brimham Rocks road before dropping down into Smelthouses. We arrived at Pateley Bridge in good time, and four riders opted for the swim option. Dennis put us to shame in the pool. He swims 6 times a week and his mastery of the wet environment was superb. The remaining riders continued up the Nidd Valley for a café stop at How Stean Gorge. Sue sped along on her newly acquired bike bought through the Wheel Easy discussion group. After the swim we re-grouped for the return ride via Summerbridge, Darley, Menwith Hill and Beckwithshaw. A 40-mile ride on a pleasant, still, autumn day. M.W.

Medium Ride

At great personal sacrifice, Phil offered to forego the 40-mile "long ride" with additional swim and to lead a leisurely trip to Boston Spa. With no particular route in mind, eleven brave souls, tagged along believing that all was well planned and organised as usual. That was not the case. The spontaneous journey took us past Ridding Park, and onto Spofforth where we joined the cycle path to Wetherby. At this point Crawford left us, as he had an appointment at the pub. After a wrong turn or two we travelled past the racecourse and on to Boston Spa. Having taken a short rest, we followed the main road to Collingham and Linton, where we turned left to Sicklinghall. The next village was Kirby Overblow, where we took a quiet back road to the A61, then on to Burn Bridge and home. About 25 miles were covered with the benefit of great weather, and good company. P.H.

Short Ride

Six people cycled to Beckwithshaw on the flattest route possible, which involved hopping from one side of Otley Road to the other several times. We were so keen the speedy ride to the triathlon had great difficulty overtaking us on Rayleigh Road. The group got out of control along

the road into Beckwithshaw as the leader cycled along the foot path being attacked by bushes, and the rest of the group sensibly went along the road. We saw a large Virgin hot air balloon, which tried to follow us, obviously Richard Branson wanted to join us. It was a glorious day and the ride ended back at Hornbeam having only lost three people due to hot dates with lawn mowers and hedge trimmers. A sixteen mile tour of the backwaters of Harrogate and Beckwithshaw taking one and a half hours. CG.

