

Sunday, October 14, 2007

Wheel Easy! Ride Report No. 76



Wheel Speedy (9am Start)

The first Wheel Speedy ride of the Autumn took place on Sunday. Although the weather was a bit overcast and the roads damp, three early risers made their way to Aldborough via Knaresborough, Arkendale and Lower Dunsforth and returning through Staveley and Knaresborough on the way back to Hornbeam Park. We covered 30 miles in just over 2 hours giving a very respectable average speed of nearly 15mph.

Paul. D.

Short Ride

Ladies only, (4), favoured this pleasant ride which departed from Hornbeam Park via Yorkshire Showground to Wetherby Road and through the cycle path 'behind the tip' to lead onto Hookstone Road. There, left turn to meet Knaresborough Road and 'rest up' by Bilton Hall entrance. Hunted out some sloe bushes, and vowed to return next week complete with set of ladders, as most reachable offerings have already been snaffled! Thereafter, the delights of Beryl Burton Cycleway down into Knaresborough where the church bells cheerily welcomed us whilst cycling along the riverside.

Along Abbey Road, and a pull in for the photo shoot, and also a quick history stop off to look for St Robert of Knaresborough, though unfortunately, his cave was empty, (well, since 1232, actually!).

Left turn along Chain Lane, and picked up the very pleasant dog walking/come cycling/come horse riding lane along the picturesque lakeside, with plenty of swans on show.

Left along B'bridge Road to lead back into Knaresborough and home.

Many topics of conversation along the way - most notably the latest offering from glamorous cheffette, Nigella Lawson, whose latest recipe book, (on sale in Asda - cheaper than on-line at Amazon, we understand!!), offers a chocolate mousse made very simply from marshmallows, dark chocolate, a bit of butter and lashings of double cream. Also discussed the merits of belly dancing, and all in all had a jolly good ride!

Sarah E

Medium Ride

Twenty two miles, medium weather. Still, mild, light distant haze. Ridding, slowly past golf and maize to Barrowby, Autumn colours dulled brown and orange, scent of wood smoke across the depth of Wharfedale in pastoral grey green and moist dew filled slopes. Forty miles per hour down undulating, ovulating lanes to Huby. Smart houses crisp pointed stone, light conversation climbing to banana stop at Almscliffe Crag. Body heat escaping with tops removed then leaves squashed brown mud cowpats passed to panoramic vista Otley to Harewood and beyond. Rigton dropping climbing till home.

Paul. A.

Long Ride

As Bill was leading the ride we knew we could all be sure of a good route at a reasonable pace and he certainly did not let the seven riders down. We set off at a keen pace to Boroughbridge via Knaresborough, Arkendale, Marton and Lower Dunsforth. After a quick toilet stop at Boroughbridge we made our way to Ripon where we enjoyed refreshments at the Sun Parlour Cafe. It was a lovely autumn morning so we took the opportunity to sit outside and enjoy the autumnal scene and the coffee and cakes. Three riders then made their way back to Harrogate via Bishop Monkton and Copgrove, while Bill continued to Studley Royal and Fountains Abbey before returning to Harrogate. With Bill being an experienced cyclist the route was excellent and it was a thoroughly enjoyable ride.

Paul. T.

