

Sunday, November 25, 2007

Wheel Easy! Ride Report No. 82



Although several regulars were away, 31 cyclists joined the Wheel Easy rides on Sunday. Nineteen riders opted for the **medium ride**. We followed the popular route towards Wetherby via Pannal, Burn Bridge, Kirkby Overblow, and Sicklinghall. The leader nearly lost half the group in Pannal as he forgot 18 people were following him! At Wetherby the group had the option of returning to Harrogate along the cycle path to Spofforth or continuing to Tockwith. Six opted to return home. Thirteen riders continued and picked up the cycle path to Thorpe Arch.

We then made our way to Walton and then along the Roman Road towards Cattal taking in an additional loop down South Field Lane into Tockwith village. From Tockwith we made our way towards Hunsingore and Walshford. We joined the cycle path at Walshford and headed for refreshments at Wetherby. Six riders made their way to Kirk Deighton and home and seven went to a cafe. After refreshments we headed back to Harrogate along the railway path to Spofforth and Follifoot. The ride leader decided to return along the road to Spofforth as he was worried his bike might get dirty on the cycle path!

Although it was a longer medium ride, everyone seemed to enjoy it and riders would have covered approaching 40 miles before reaching home. PT

Nine chose the **long ride**, first to Knaresborough and Wetherby, then taking the cycle path to Boston Spa and Tadcaster for a break at the Tykes Tea Rooms, a cycle friendly café with nice food and prices. All this at a good pace, and in good order showing how our fitness and group riding skills have improved over the year.

At the café we met Ian who joined us for a while, and hopefully will bike with us again. Then north to Cattal for a short break, where two riders left us to return home by a shorter route. The original intention was to ride to Boroughbridge with two shorter options in case of bad weather but with daytime running short it was decided at Great Ouseburn to take the last cut off option and go back more directly via Marton cum Grafton. Approximate mileage 43-44. Good ride, good

company, thanks to all who took part. DP

Two keen eager young fellows set off with this weeks **short ride** leader on an expedition to Spofforth and Knaresborough, the other short regular having slept in. We sped through Hookstone Woods, avoiding thousands of dogs and their walkers, and hundreds of horse riders with their horses (or so it seemed). It was obviously a day for being out and about in the woods. We sailed past the woodcraft conference at the Showground, past Rudding Park, and had a glorious ride down from Follifoot to Spofforth despite the leader's turning off down the wrong part of a road junction to Spofforth at Follifoot.

From Spofforth we headed towards Little Ribston, I think, noting unusually large flocks of pigeons, a cormorant, and a 'red kite', which in fact turned out to be a toy plane. We glided into Knaresborough without raising too much of a sweat, to be faced with the perennial problem of which hill to take out of Knaresborough. Two riders chickened out of Beryl Burton's little treat in favour of yet another view of Morrisons, via Calcutt, while Paul sturdily headed back home in the outlying villages, via Beryl's hill. A good ride 16 mile in very sunny mild conditions took two hours, perhaps not a record. CG



