

Sunday, December 23, 2007

Wheel Easy Ride Report No. 86



Seven riders opted for the long ride. It turned out to be a lovely morning with clear views. There was a great deal of variety on the route with country lanes, main roads, flat stretches, and many hills. There was ice on a few stretches and although Jill went into a skid there were fortunately no accidents.

The route from Hornbeam Park went via Burn Bridge, Brackenthwaite Lane, North Rigton and on to Almscliff Crag. At Leathley we decided to stop for coffee in Otley and save the intended ride to Ilkley for another day. We stopped at the Leeds House coffee shop for refreshments and were looked after by a young enthusiastic and polite waiter. Rather than leave a tip he was offered training in how to carry a stack of plates.

The conversation over coffee focussed on traditional carols, management techniques and one 'nameless' member of Wheel Easy admitted to phoning in a vote for Strictly Come Dancing. After refreshments we continued cycling to Pool where we joined the familiar route to Huby, Weeton, Dunkeswick and Kirkby Overblow.

Once again it was a great ride and we covered about 28 miles, although a few would cover more before they arrived home.

Merry Christmas everyone! PT

Unusually leadership of the medium ride was by committee since we did not actually get round to appointing a leader. Nonetheless some five stalwarts set off in the general direction of North Rigton in pretty strong sunlight which was a bonus. Only four actually got there Phil deciding to return from the top of Ladybank Lane muttering something about Christmas shopping and the fact he had not been out for a week or two.

From the said hamlet we took in another two at Weeton and Dunkeswick before turning back to

Harrogate by the trade route of Kirkby Overblow to return more or less individually from there by various routes according to destination. About 18 miles in total.

All in all a gentle ride for the holiday period and a bit icy in parts. Just ask Eric who managed a spectacular skid and summary dismount thankfully without lasting damage.

Merry Christmas and a happy new year to all. SB

Five 'short ride enthusiasts' set off from Hornbeam Park to Beckwithshaw via the St Georges Cycle way, a 'downhill fly' past the Squinting Cat, and an eventual left turn onto the Otley Road. (A warm welcome to one temporary/new member from North Carolina, proving that the Club's reputation is becoming globally established!). Right turn at Beckwithshaw roundabout, followed by a sharp left turn to take us meandering through the picturesque Moor Park estate.

Journeyed onto Norwood Lane where the inevitable 'banana stop' took place. (One member advised that it is now possible to actually buy a banana holder for one's bike - perhaps a handy tip for next year's festive event planning?) This was closely followed by a dip into the cherry liqueurs, (well, really has to be done at Xmas!!), before the group split to allow some members to return back to Harrogate via Beckwithshaw, for festive activities.

Two members continued on to eventually take the loop back around to Harrogate via Pennypot Lane. (A stop-off took place to inspect the four newly established wind turbines, which currently lay dormant - awaiting their four other companions due in the new year!).

A pleasant/dry pre-Christmas ride with beautiful scenery and the hope of many more to follow in the New Year! SE

C

