

Sunday, July 13, 2008

Wheel Easy Ride Report No. 115



Dave's suggested captions. Any more offers?

1. Wheel Easy develops new strategy to deal with aggressive motorists.
2. If people complain about cycles on the Stray wait til they see what's coming next.

Seven "keen" long riders - or were they just thankful to have good weather? - set off from the car park. Sue C, Peter B, Bill W, Phil S (new rider), Malcolm Y, Dave B and Dave P picking up Dave W in Knaresborough.

Quick "cuppa`s" in Tykes Tea rooms in Tadcaster.

Then on to Ulleskelf, Ryther, Cawood . Dave W left us here (see photo of Cawood Castle).

Wistow then Selby. Some nice but unhealthy eating in a little café in Selby (see photo Selby Abbey). Here Dave B left us.

Picked up Trans Pennine Trail to Barmby on the Marsh, at confluence of Rivers Derwent and Ouse (see photo).

On to Howden a bit pushed for time but weather glorious and riders keen. (photo)

Return via Bubwith, North Duffield, Riccall and York cycle path. Askham Richard, Tockwith and home.

The return route put on more miles than originally planned probably around 80+ miles.

The weather was great with good paced group riding. Excellent day out.

Dave P

It was a welcome change to arrive at Hornbeam, the car park bathed in sunshine and not a waterproof to be seen. Also welcome return of the bike stands which have been missing for several months. Eleven set off on a steady paced medium ride to Ripon via Knaresborough, Bishop Monkton, Markington, Fountains Abbey, The Deer Park and Studley.

Denis, Eric and Nick decided to make it a faster run which they did and we met them still enjoying the sunshine at Spa Gardens Café. The rest of us kept a decent pace, took lots of stops, several pictures and made it to the café for midday. A lovely ride on a warm sunny day in excellent company. It was a most companionable ride. Thanks to everyone. Just over the 35 miles promised.

Highlights.

Joe pointing out to us the location of Roosters Brewery.

Teasing Paul either about his existing bike and new saddle bag or Steve trying to get him to buy yet another one.

Steve on Paul's bike!

Gaye on her new bike.

Steve and Gaye discussing nuts and allergies.

The delightful run from Cascades Garden Centre down to Markington and then up a very quiet Westerns Lane in warm sunshine.

This fine route has only one significant hill around the bottom Fountains Abbey entrance. GM

Six riders set out on a very leisurely 20 mile journey which took in Knaresborough, Lingerfield, Brearton, Ripley and Knox. The pace was gentle, the weather was fine, the birds were singing, all was well. Wheel Easy at its best!

Off Road Ride. I can report the off road was a new experience in terms of Wheel Easy events which on nearly all previous occasions have for me been road rides of varying lengths. As such there was not, for the participants, a clearly understood expectation of the length of the route, or for that matter the somewhat more strenuous nature of the ride, albeit in relatively short bursts, before more frequently taken rests.

Given that difference between off road and road cycling I can see it may be best to avoid too long a road ride to the start. I mention this since the only two of the party to finish were Neil and yours truly both of whom had motored to the start in Hampsthwaite.

Nonetheless I hope all those who took part, six in all, enjoyed the experience of about 15-20 miles nearly all on bridleways of varying conditions. Some were a touch muddy after the recent rains, others were in perfectly dry and firm condition.

The route from Hampsthwaite involved a steepish track up to the Nidderdale Way in the vicinity of Bishop Thornton. After that a brief passage along the road took us to the bridle tracks from the Cayton Gill area down to Ripley along which two of the party found a different route back to Harrogate. The remaining four carried on but had a slight delay to repair a puncture near Ripley. Thankfully we had all necessary equipment between us to effect a speedy repair and on we went.

The finishers took just under 3 hours to complete the route, not much above schedule when the puncture repair is taken into account. I do hope all concerned enjoyed the trip, I did although hosing off the bike was pretty essential. I also hope we can continue the occasional off road which I do think adds a whole new dimension to Sunday morning biking. SB



