

Sunday, August 31, 2008

Wheel Easy Ride Report No. 122



Despite the poor weather forecast (when did we last have a good one?) around 30 riders met at Hornbeam car park.

The long ride was to Selby but via York, this gave riders the option to shorten the ride to suit any time constraints or to visit the Green Festival held in Rowntree Park. Nineteen riders elected to take this ride, the route being Knaresborough, Little Ribston, Cowthorpe, Long Marston (though one 'wheelspeedy' went via Wetherby). On to Askham Richard where a few more riders left the group to return via a shorter route. On the cycle path to York more riders left us to return to Harrogate via other routes, leaving eight riders for Selby.

By this time certain riders were in need of a 'caffeine fix' and a private house at Naburn Bridge acting as a cafe provided an excellent cup of caffetiére coffee. Here a further two riders left the party to push on to Selby leaving the remaining six to enjoy their coffee. A good steady pace on to Ricall, Barlby and Selby.

A good cheap and cheerful cyclists cafe in Selby where we were quickly served (being the first in) with those delicious foods that are bad for us. Back to Church Fenton via Bishop Wood and Biggin, the rain starting before Bishop Wood. On to Ulleskelf, Tadcaster, Boston Spa (for comfort stop), then Wetherby and back to Harrogate via the cycle path. Though one rider fearing suspected mud went via the road. (Mud's good for the complexion Bill).

Meanwhile a group of four elite riders sped back from York via Beningbrough while three visited the York Green Festival's eclectic mixture of organic, Fairtrade and other ethical attractions before heading home in a late afternoon downpour.

Highlights.

Peter B`s statement " food`s really useful"?

Dave P signalling, something like a seagull with only one wing.

Peter B`s Dear Gia actually Deer Gia referring to horned quadrupeds seen in a field.

Malcolm Y threatening to winge all the way home if there was any mud on the Wetherby cycle path, this coming from a Cyclo-Cross champion. who probably got so muddy his Mother wouldn't recognise him. Dave P

Short ride. Nice ride out to Wetherby, jumpers were on and off as we couldn't decide what kind of day it was going to be! Out through Knaresborough hot on the heels of the long ride, through Little Ribston, North

Deighton and Kirk Deighton and then the group split with me returning via the Harland Way, and up through Folifoot to Harrogate and the rest cycling on to Thorp Arch. Jane B

Off road. Three set off from Hornbeam Park for the off road ride. We went though Harrogate and up through Jennyfields. I had arranged to meet Sandy Pinkney at Hampsthwaite. Expecting one extra rider, I was really surprised to find a whole group of keen off-road riders waiting for us, so three became eight! We continued through the woods to Ripley then up to Birthwaite and High Cayton. Then a good fast off road route to South Stainley and on to Brearton. We stopped for a photo opportunity on the way to Farnham and on to Bar Lane, Knaresborough.

We avoided the wettest bit going into Hay-a-Park and then past Hopewell House through Castle Farm to Flaxby. After negotiating a short section of the A59, we went up to Goldsborough then down to Goldsborough Mill Farm. From there over the ring road and through the Lido caravan park and Birkham Wood to Thistle Hill and down to Waterside. We said goodbye to the Hampsthwaite contingent, and the three original riders (Eric, Ben and I) enjoyed a relaxing drink and snack sitting outside the cafe. At the end of Waterside we went our separate ways homeward, having cycled about 30 miles, 15 of which was 'off road'. John M



