

Sunday, October 5, 2008

## Wheel Easy Ride Report No. 127

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Sponsored Ride for the Bilton to Ripley Route - 28 Sept

Amount Raised Exceeds £5;400

Following some further donations Martin Weeks is delighted to announce that the amount of funds received and pledges made now has now exceeded £5;400. Martin thanks everyone for their support and hard work in raising this sponsorship money.

For those who have not yet made their donation the following is the method of putting in the funds to Sustrans:

Riders: Please donate by credit card online at [www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk).

Select 'Donate Now>>' (top right), then 'Make a donation', then click on 'Donate now', complete the form and select 'Bilton to Ripley Route Appeal' in the dropdown box below. Donations can also be made by cheque payable to 'Sustrans Bilton-Ripley Route', with your name, postcode and first line of your address on the back. Please send to Judith Turner, 23 Birstwith Grange, Birstwith, Harrogate HG3 3AH, with the completed sponsorship form so Gift Aid can be claimed.

Long Ride Report - 5 Oct 2008

Eleven riders set out over the moors from Beckwithshaw to Fewston Reservoir and Timble. The skies cleared and the sun gradually came out to make for a superb cycling day with early autumn colours. After the high-speed drop down into the Wharfe Valley at Askwith we headed for Otley Cycling Club, where Dave Preston, his wife Celia, and daughter Louise, had laid on a spread of tea, home made scones and cake. Many thanks to them all for this super effort. Many of us also enjoyed the Ron Kitching Museum before setting out to return.

The return journey was one of those days where "you make it as long as you want". We all returned via Weeton to Kirkby Overblow where several riders headed home to Harrogate. The sunshine, however, proved too much of an attraction for the majority and we headed off for Wetherby and a Coffee stop.

Over coffee, tea, and cakes, the undiminished enthusiasm for further miles led to the hatching of a route for an even longer return via Wetherby race course, Cattal, Whixley, and Great Ouseburn before turning west back to Harrogate and home. By the time we arrived back the total was over 60 miles (100km) and everyone was thoroughly delighted with the ride, the company, and the sunshine. Martin W.

Medium Ride

Eighteen riders opted for the medium ride, so we had to split into two groups. Both groups left Hornbeam Park for Burnbridge and onto Brackenthwaite Lane. We were all embarrassed at this point as a jogger was running quicker than we were riding. We were pleased he didn't attempt the hill as he would have been out of sight by the time we got to the top. One group continued to North Rigton, Armscliff Crag, Stainburn and on to Leathley. The other continued along Brackenthwaite Lane onto the B6161 to Leathley. This road was closed to cars so it provided a good alternative route. On this stretch a puncture was repaired by Paula in record time.

Both groups arrived in Otley one group taking the hilly B6451 the other the flatter A659. By this time we were down to 14 riders. Dave welcomed us at the Otley CC Club Room, where we were provided with drinks and scones, which everyone appreciated.

We returned home via Pool, Castley, Weeton, Dunkeswick and Kirby Overblow. Everyone went at their own pace

and hopefully returned home safely. A massive thank you to Dave for organising the morning Paul T.

#### Short Ride

Five potterers rode forth on the short ride which ambled comfortably from Harrogate to Wetherby, via Kirby Overblow and Linton. We enjoyed a coffee at the Best Blend in Wetherby then potted cheerfully back to Harrogate along the Harland Way. We covered 21.72 miles. The leader benefitted immeasurably from the locals knowledge of how to avoid traffic in the Harrogate area. Some of the group asked about the Semaine Federale and here is the link: <http://sf2009.ffct5962.com/>. I am definitely going and will be cycling from Tockwith to Hull, then crossing on North Sea Ferries to Zeebrugge. Anyone who is considering riding as a Wheel Easy group is invited to email me at [folkard@tesco.net](mailto:folkard@tesco.net) and I'll send then a provisional itinerary. It could be comfortably done with a mileage of about 45 miles per day.

#### Off Road Ride

I was waiting in Pateley for a few minutes when Eric turned up, shortly followed by Matt from [Charityadventure.org.uk](http://Charityadventure.org.uk), who came all the way from Pudsey. We waited until 10am then set off. The ride began but it wasn't "Wheel Easy" it was more like "Wheely Hard". The sun was out and it was the start of an amazing day. We set off in the direction of Ramsgill where we turned off road and through farmland for 3 miles then back onto the road at Stean. Here we decided to have a coffee stop. Shortly after the stop the serious off road began with a climb up a testing track, which had a stream running down it. We cycled on all the way up to Scar House reservoir, where the views were absolutely amazing. We prepared ourselves for the first real technical down hill, which was a very challenging route down to the reservoir. This was followed by yet another climb. Soon we were at the top and looked back at the reservoir and how far we had come. Eric pointed out the game shooting pens. We carried on the road from Lofthouse to Masham, then crossed over, where we were overtaken by two motor cross riders. At the top of the hill we could see the White horse, then the fun began, the best down hill of the day. Eric's computer stated 31mph on lose wet shale, it was awesome, a real adrenaline rush! Finally, we got to Wath and a quick return to the carpark. That really was a classic cross country ride and what an achievement!

Ben C.



