

Sunday, November 23, 2008

## Wheel Easy Ride Report No. 135



Long ride. The day started with slush on the roads (well it did on the Harlow Hill micro-climate). Despite the weather we had 18 riders turn up at the car park, though one, our lady announcer, unfortunately had to return home with a slightly strained back.

It was a case of where to ride because of the weather/road conditions.

Twelve chose to go to Wetherby take a coffee break, review the road conditions, to see if they would continue or return to Harrogate. At Knaresborough we were joined by two more EG ride regulars.

On the way to Wetherby the roads were dry and we had clear blue sky and a nip in the air, in fact ideal cycling conditions.

At Wetherby the group split, some returning to Harrogate and some for a much more ambitious ride (below).

After coffee 9 riders set off for Boroughbridge via the A168 (old A1) cycle path then to the actual A168 at Walshford roundabout.

Then turning right after the Arkendale turn off to Marton cum Grafton, left turn and through both villages along the ridge down to Aldborough and Boroughbridge.

More tea/coffee then back to Harrogate via Staveley.

Excellent day and cycling weather despite the dubious start, back to Harrogate approx 2.15pm. Would estimate most riders would have done around 36 to 40 miles door to door.

Dave P

The extra long ride carried straight on at Wetherby and made the most of the day on a superb route: Cattal, Great Ouseburn, Boroughbridge, Newby Hall, Ripon Spa Gardens for tea and scones. Then on to Fountains Abbey, Dallowgill Moor, down Silver Hill, Wath, Pateley Bridge and into the tea room for more tea and scones. Up the High Street, Summerbridge over the toll bridge, Birstwith, Hamphswaite, and home. Approx 75 miles glorious sunshine all the way round, no ice or snow and back home for 3.30. Malcolm Y

Short Ride. I was woken at 7.00am by the ice as it fell from the skies and was driven against our windows by the strong wind. So I thought no one would seriously want to ride today in an ice storm - how wrong can you be!

By 9.30am there were 18 riders gathered at Hornbeam and 5 of us elected to do a short ride to coffee in Knaresborough. We did the "supermarket round" going through the bottom of Hornbeam Park to Hookstone Wood and on through the show ground to Sainsbury's. Even as the sun came through there were some ice patches to be treated with caution.

Then we crossed Wetherby Road and on through the cycle way to come out on Hookstone Chase near Morrisons, and over to Knaresborough for coffee by the Riverside. Sandy and Chris Delf and James Brook from Ripon Loiterers joined us in the café, but their appetites surpassed ours having already clocked up 13 miles from Ripon.

We climbed back up the Beryl Burton Way then into Harrogate to Hornbeam Park via Asda and the back door of Waitrose. So four supermarkets passed and no temptation to go shopping at all. Martin W

