

Sunday, March 22, 2009

Wheel Easy Ride Report No. 152



Responsibility for leading the long ride on MMMS (Mad March Mothering Sunday) was delegated to Dave and Bill. The leaders with Chis and Peter completed a ride of 110Km visiting Tadcaster, Selby, York and Tockwith; incorporating the Riccall to York cycle path.

Progress to Selby was rapid with an average speed in excess of 25kph but at Selby we met a freshening MM north-westerly, a severe test of our legs. Peter warrants a special mention in covering closer to 130Km for his round trip from Burton Leonard.

We failed to meet any MM's (mothering mothers) but the two young lady police officers sitting next to us in a Tadcaster cafe received a very short but very unique message over their intercom, one very loud wolf whistle! D&B

27, 28, 29? people opted for the medium ride although more joined in Knaresborough, so at Low Bridge we split in to 2 groups with Bill kindly 'volunteering' to lead off the first group.

In the second group, 10 riders headed through Little Ribston to Cowthorpe where we stopped for a look around the interesting 15th century church (c/o the Churches Restoration Trust - inside you can get a booklet listing other such churches in the local area). Then it was off to Tockwith (the leader condescending to stop at the shop for those wishing to buy drinks!), then Long Marston, Hutton Wandersley, Healaugh, Wighill, along the cycle path from Walton into Wetherby and a coffee stop for 6 in the Shambles, others having departed for home at various points before then.

Return to Harrogate via Harland Way, Spofforth, Follifoot and Wetherby Road. The ride was slightly longer than advertised at 37 miles in total, but hopefully we kept a reasonable pace to accommodate both the super speedy (on their new Specialised bike) and for Crawford who was forced to ride in his lowest chain ring despite frequent attempts to re-tune. The roads were predominantly quiet, the weather was sunny until Healaugh, Spring was springing all

around, the group stopped enough for comfort without undue delay - so a very nice ride overall.

If anyone is encouraged by today's ride to join the Daffodil ride next weekend, which would be over 45 miles, I can pretty much confirm you all looked like you had another 10 miles in you at least by the time we had finished - and with the lure of cakes at Thorpe Perrow.....who knows how far you could go? Peter L

Three riders took up the offer of a short ride. Gaye, Peter Palm, Mervyn and Dave P leading. From Hookstone car park, crossing Leeds Road to Beckwithshaw, then to Little Almscliff, all into the wind. On to Bland Hill then passing the Sun Inn on to Penny Pot Lane where we had the wind on our backs (wonderful). A fast run down to Oak Beck, and then the annoying little climb out up to the water works.

Here Peter left us to return home, the remaining three calling for a coffee in the Valley Gardens. Then back via Arthurs Avenue, Leadhall Lane to Hookstone car park. DP



