

Sunday, June 28, 2009

## Wheel Easy Ride Report No. 166

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Medium Ride: Sixteen riders opted for the medium ride, so we split into two groups. Unfortunately they were not equal groups as eleven went with Jill and only five with me. Both groups left Hornbeam Park for Burnbridge and onto Brackenthwaite Lane.

The groups were right as Jill was leading the faster group and they quickly disappeared into the distance. Both groups continued to North Rigton, Armscliff Crag, Stainburn and on to Leathley. Phil left my group at Armscliffe Crag as his knees were causing him discomfort.

The ride to Leathley is lovely and I kept reassuring my group there were no more hills when in fact the journey to Ilkley is quite hilly but they are only small hills. Some people need a great deal of convincing!

From Otley we ambled along to Askwith and into Ilkley where we joined the faster group for coffee at Avanti. After a brief chat the faster group made their way back to Harrogate. Some were going via Timble and Fewston and the others back along the valley to Poole and then Castley, Weeton, Dunkeswick and Kirby Overblow.

My group decided we would go to Otley and visit the bike shop and return to Harrogate on the A658. At Otley Chevin Cycles, Mervyne was straight in and managed to buy bike accessories before the rest of us had locked up our bikes.

The ride back along the A658 was interesting as there was a two mile hold up into Poole and it was very satisfying passing all those unfortunate motorists.

It was a good ride and although it looked like it might rain, it didn't. A big thank you to Jill

for taking the larger group who I am sure preferred the faster pace that Jill could offer, even though she was not so well. Overall we covered just over 40 enjoyable miles. Paul T

Medium Ride Extra: A group of four of us went up the hill from Askwith and into the mist and light drizzle. From there it was past Menwith Hill with the the golf balls looming out of the mist, down to Hampsthwaite and home via Knox Village. A few extra miles and hills. Great! Thanks to Paul and Jill for a really enjoyable ride. Martin

In cool, overcast conditions, eight of us set off on the short ride, which would be a repeat of the ride we took several weeks ago to Fewston Parochial Hall, with a couple of minor deviations. We started by taking the cycle path from Hookstone Road to Fulwith Mill Lane, crossed Leeds Road, then via Firs Crescent to join Leadhall Lane. We descended Church Lane into Pannal, through Rosemount and Westminster Drive into Burn Bridge and then the full length of Brackenthwaite Lane to take us to the B6161 Killinghall to Otley Road at Briscoe Ridge.

We then took 2 alternative routes to get to the car park at Little Alms Cliff. John, Jez, and Sue took the longer road option via Beckwithshaw, whilst 5 of us opted for the more direct off-road route past Lanshaw Farm and through Stainburn Moor Woods. The flooded forest track that caused us to walk a few weeks ago had now dried out and provided a very enjoyable off-road challenge that could certainly be used again on future summer rides. The 2 groups rejoined at the car park, but the visibility had deteriorated as we had now climbed into low cloud - very strange for June! Those who had lights on their bike now wisely had them switched on for the descent to Norwood and Fewston, where we had tea and cakes in support of Dacre Cricket Club.

The return to Harrogate was a fairly quick run along Penny Pot Lane and past Queen Ethelburga's estate, stopping for a photo at Knabs Ridge. The low cloud meant we even couldn't see the wind turbines just yards away from us! A very pleasant, but cool ride. 22 miles, and we were all back in Harrogate before 1pm, ready to join the sunshine which finally arrived an hour or so later. Eric Waters

