

Sunday, August 2, 2009  
**Wheel Easy Ride Report 171**

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With the promise of good weather just under 40 riders met at Hookstone Station car park. Jill to lead the long ride, Dennis to lead the medium ride ( thanks for stepping in Dennis) and Dave P to lead the short ride.

Long ride. I don't whether it was the prospect of sunshine or hills, but 21 opted for the long ride. The group kept together as far as Little Almscliffe, but Martin then very kindly agreed to lead a slightly slower paced group.

From then on it was very much a case of the faster group being led from the back. By the time I reached the bottom of the hill at Askwith there wasn't a cyclist to be seen. I caught up with a few people waiting at the next junction where we were due to tackle the climb up through Middleton & Langbar & over to Beamsley & Bolton Abbey.

Steve had to return home from this point & a few others opted to follow the lower road round to Bolton Abbey so just Ian & myself started the climb. We soon met up with Peter B & then Phil was waiting at the top of the hill. As we headed towards the Abbey tea rooms we passed some other members of the group who had succumbed to tea & chocolate cake at an alternative café.

After refreshments just 5 of the original 21 riders opted for the extra loop, hills & great views around Embsay. From there it was back across the river by Barden Tower & the climb up to Stump Cross before an easy run back to Harrogate. About 56 hilly miles in total. Jill

Eight of us decided that a steadier approach to the hills was warranted, particularly as we didn't want to show up any of the keen ones on the fast long ride! So we enjoyed the scenery, extra café stops, and extra long ones at that. However by the time we had climbed

up to Stump Cross there were some mutterings about selling bikes and joining motorbike clubs - and this after one of the best climbs in Yorkshire! From there the ride home almost made up for the hills as we zoomed along with a good tailwind.

We were nearly home when Angela and Yvonne fell victims to bee (or was it wasp) stings near Rossett School. But both made light of it, Angela especially who for some reason decided the sting in her cleavage didn't need careful examination from the Ride Leader. All those First Aid Courses and I was foiled again! Martin W

Medium ride.

Eight riders set out from Hornbeam Park led by Dennis, who had volunteered his ride leader skills at the last minute. The weather was pleasant, with intermittent sunshine, as we headed off to Knaresborough via Calcutt.

Out onto Boroughbridge Road to Farnham, Bishop Monkton and in the general direction of Ripon. A right turn to Littlethorpe, and off towards Boroughbridge, where the group (now down to 7), discussed the inevitable cycling dilemma - 'shall we, shan't we' stop off for tea and buns! Oh! No declared Phil. He needed to get back! Quite understandable! Always jobs to do at home! So we landed in Boroughbridge and posed for the customary photograph in the town square, where group member Peter happened to point out a pub opposite, which was holding a day of folk music and revelry!

Heading out of Boroughbridge, the group were suddenly aware of depleted numbers! (5!) Funny! No Phil and no Peter! How mysterious.....A puncture, maybe?? Abducted by aliens???

Return via Minskip and Staveley, with the girls in the group taking a more leisurely pace. Thanks to Dennis for stepping in at the last minute and putting us youngsters through our paces! Sarah E

Short ride

Seven riders (The Magnificent Seven?). Debbie, Jo, Linda, Nicola, Sue, James and Dave P) set off last, destination Markington and The Sticky Wicket Café. Swoop down to Knaresborough along Waterside to Farnham and Occaney. Near Burton Leonard we nearly caught up with the medium ride, so we paused for a drink break so as not to complicate things with our extra numbers. Then on to Bishop Monkton and Markington.

The cakes in The Sticky Wicket Café were magnificent and home made. Temptation loomed, but no problem Jo had a calorie counter on her bike, and acting as our calories conscience she informed us that we had expended enough calories to attack the cakes without feeling guilty (but then I never do).

Back to Harrogate via Ripley. A great cycling day lovely weather, car park to car park approx 22 miles. DP

