

Sunday, August 16, 2009
Wheel Easy Ride Report 173



Several new riders joined more than 50 cyclists for Wheel Easy's weekly Sunday ride despite a persistent drizzle. Welcome too for Andrew and Lewis who came over from Bradford, Lewis nicely tucked up in a tag along buggy behind his dad. Andrew if you are reading this please let us know your email address!

With 50 riders it takes a little while to get organised but as everyone likes to have a good chat it's pretty relaxed. Paul B stepped in to lead a medium ride, Sue T to lead a short, Ben led an off road ride and Dave P a long ride off towards Coxwold.

Long ride. Fourteen riders joined the long ride, destination being Sutton on the Forest and Kilburn, both being café stops. Down the familiar route to Knaresborough, along Abbey Road to Farnham, Arkendale and Great Ouseburn. On to Aldwark toll bridge, where the cheery toll man shouted out "you've got the wind on your backs". Yes we were lucky, but not on the home run (still you can't win them all and the rain did hold off).

After the toll bridge, Dennis and Peter left us to return to Harrogate, the remaining 12 continuing to Tollerton, Huby and a welcome coffee stop at Sutton Park café (you could almost hear the bodies calling out for their caffeine fix).

After refreshment it was almost due north on the B1363 to Stillington, though still on the plain of York. The Howardian Hills could be seen in the distance. A slight climb to Brandsby, then a left turn out off Brandsby took us up a steep climb (nothing compared with Park Rash) to Yearsley, on the ridge of the Howardian Hills, with its great views. Then a fast descent to Ampleforth before we hit the short sharp hill at Carr Lodge. Then on to Byland Abbey, then Oldstead, through the pleasant small wooded valleys to Kilburn and tea and cake stop at the Mouseman Cafe.

After leaving Kilburn and climbing up to Coxwold, we descended to Carlton Husthwaite and on to Hutton Sessay and Pilmoor (that`s a lot of ups and downs for a DP ride). On to Boroughbridge for a toilet stop and banana break. Here the ride split into two groups, one slightly faster, one slightly slower to return to Harrogate.

It had been a good ride. The rain held off though the wind was a bit of a nuisance but not a problem. Mileage car park to car park approx 68/69 miles, though Harrogate cyclists would have done around 72/73 miles. Dave P

Medium ride

1. As there were so many for the medium ride I led a faster group and 11 of us followed the temptation to get to The Sticky Wicket before they close for the winter on 6th September. Mark and Julie, two new riders, were well up to the speed and enjoyed the new routes and the delicious fare in Markington.

We added a loop around Copgrove and then took the hilly route home via Shaw Mills and Hampsthwaite. Home in the sunshine about 35 miles. Gia

2. This is the official, authorised report of the slowish, flattish medium distance ride. Any other unauthorised, breakaway contributions are to be ignored (we know where you live, Caroline)!

It started off wettish for the 14 riders. In Met Office terms, it wasn't rain but more of a mizzling affair. Wriggling through the town, we then swooped down Knox Lane, up to and around the back of Killinghall ('Crawford's Folly'), where, unbeknownst at the time, Andrew collected a thorn. This thorn gradually flattened the tyre in Lewis's kiddy carrier (well, what are they called?), and daddy Andrew was forced to mend it (isn't it about time these four-year-olds mended their own punctures?).

On via Nidd to the Mountgarret Estate where the erstwhile reliable Sarah also suffered a puncture. Surrounded by the usual bevy of Wheel Easy experts this, and its subsequent valve problem were fixed. Or were they? Chain jumping and forgetfulness (the brake wasn't reassembled), meant a further delay.

By this time, a splinter group had formed and disappeared (we still know where you live, Caroline). The various delays precluded the completion of the full ride, and eight souls eventually made it to Knaresborough via Burton Leonard, Copgrove and Farnham.

A later communication from the breakaway junta advised that 5 had returned safely. This, plus our own 8, means that there's still one rider out there somewhere! Paul B

Today's short ride was exactly what it said on the label (!) due to the ride leader's family lunch appointment!!

With 2 new riders, Audrey and Callum, we meandered down Hornbeam Park, through Hookstone Woods, sailed down the edge of the Showground and onto Calcutt, along Abbey Road onto Chain Lane, into Knaresborough and along part of "The Beryl Burton".

As it was the first time out for the new riders, I was slightly apprehensive of carrying

along the whole of the track due to the previous "tacks" incident and didn't want them to get a puncture. Instead we went past some more local back roads up to the High School and the cycle path coming out at the top of Claro Road.

Here we parted company, hopefully with a bit of local knowledge imparted and new routes for A&C who were new to the area. Fourteen miles in total and looking forward to some Sunday lunch with my family. Sue T

Off Road ride. I awoke to a suprisingly dismal morning and set off. To my amazement nine riders were waiting for me, tempted by the off road ride. What a turnout! We went via the Yorkshire Showground, past Crimple Valley viaduct and then decided to walk through the wood by the bridge due to the size of the group, but mainly because the track is designated as a foot path.

We passed the Travellers Rest and made our way to Follifoot through the tunnel under the ring road, followed by a quick ride to the start of the wood by the Lido caravan park.

We crossed the rickety bridge to take the track to Goldsbrough, crossed the railway line at Hay-a-Park, said goodbye to John, and continued on to Coneythorpe. At Knaresborough we had the traditional stop at the Riverside Café for cake and tea (shame about the tea cakes which the owner sadly admitted she had forgotten to order!).

Then it was on up the Beryl Burton way. Near the top was a group of horses and their foals, one of which enjoyed snacking on Malcolm's tyre. At the Gardeners Arms Eric raced home due to other commitments while the rest returned home or to Hornbeam Park.

The ride was a leisurely 18 miles with good company, and I look forward to leading another off road next month. Ben C

