

Sunday, September 20, 2009
Wheel Easy Ride Report 178



Almost 50 riders turned out today on a sunny day. Great to welcome seven new members and thanks to our ride leaders. Again the medium ride attracted over 30 riders and it is excellent to be able to offer three paces and distances for this group.

Short Ride Report

A typical Wheel-Easy Sunday (blue sky, sunshine and little wind) saw six of us, regulars and new members, set off via the Showground and the lovely amenity tip to Low Bridge at Knaresborough. Then it was along Abbey Road to Chain Lane and round Hay-a-park wildfowl sanctuary with its abundance of noisy geese to Boroughbridge Road and Farnham. Turning left we were soon passing Guy Fawkes Inn and on to the Racetrack otherwise known as the K'boro - Ripley road. Enough of that and it was on to the more pleasant side road towards Brearton and Nidd. That too did not last long before we risked life and limb navigating the roundabout into Ripley. A very welcome peaceful break allowing the indulgence of bananas (for some) and coffee and icecream. We were back to the A61 for the short stretch to Killinghall. Interrupting our photo shoot came Phil - a refugee from the medium ride all the way from Brimham Rocks. We were pleased to see him and it just goes to show what a discerning mind he has! Knox Ford was reached safely before the reluctant parting of the ways but it had been an excellent outing of just over 20 miles, though 15 had been the estimate. Can't get everything right! Crawford

Medium Ride Reports

With a large number of cyclists wanting to do a medium ride, the medium ride was split into three. Malcolm M leading medium fast. Dave P leading medium medium. and Gia leading medium slow.

Eight of us including Paul B who we picked up in Hampsthwaite cycled in wonderful

sunshine enjoying the stunning views during our hilly journey to Brimham Rocks. The route via Burnt Yates is one we haven't done for ages and a refreshing change.

We met up with the medium medium group at Brimham where we all tucked in to coffee, tea and icecream. Tony was keen for more miles and more hills which tempted Matt and Allison for the Yorke Folly ride home. We met up with Norman and Barry at Brimham and I think they too set off for more hills.

Can anyone remember cycling down Stripe Lane? It is fabulous and then on to Hartwith Bridge. Home via Hampsthwaite, Rowden Lane and Queen Ethelburga's in glorious sunshine. This was an excellent ride "only about 25 miles" but the hills, the views, the weather and the great company made this a classic Wheel Easy day. Gia

Additional Medium Ride Report

Brilliant Autumn day for cycling, a clear blue sky with just a hint of a chill in the morning. Malcolm left first, and that was the last we saw of the medium fast. Dave P leaving next, however the medium medium was caught up with at Knox Mill Ford by Gia`s medium slow. an ideal place to have a photo shoot.

Dave P was a bit worried having thirteen riders in his group but this was eventually made up to fourteen.

Then back to the planned route of Hampsthwaite, Clint Bank, Burnt Yates and tea/coffee/toilets at Brimham Rocks. No sign of Malcolm M and the medium fast group so they must have set a fast pace. Soon joined by Gia and the slower group and also Norman and Barry, so a pleasant time was had sitting in the sunshine and socialising.

After TCT (tea/coffee/toilet), some riders chose to extend the ride returning via Pateley Bridge. The medium and slow groups returning as planned via Pennypot, though the slow group was not that much slower than the medium group with Gia leading the charge up the hills.

A super day, enjoyed by everyone I talked to, let's hope this weather lasts. Dave P

Medium Plus Ride Report

The medium plus started with 9 and became 11 when Phil and Paul joined us on the northern edge of Harrogate. The leader did quite well, with help from Sue, as far as Clint Bank where his old problem with steep hills left him trailing the pack. By the time we reached the Brimham crossroads the faster riders had disappeared so we knew not where, so while the group coasted down through Smelthouses I checked the entrance to Brimham Car Park and found 3 speedies sunbathing patiently.

Phil carried straight on, as he'd earlier said he would, and Jamie, John and I turned back and met up with the others at the Pateley-Harrogate main road. We made good speed to Hartwith toll bridge where some returned to Harrogate. The rest tackled the testing hill from Birstwith past Grosvenor House School, and then enjoyed the fine run and views to Menwith Hill. Several more followed Pennypot Lane leaving 5 of us to continue to join the throng at Fewston Parochial Hall for excellent cakes and tea poured from extremely hazardous teapots.

Finally, while the others headed back to Harrogate via Stainburn Woods, I couldn't resist some extra miles in the sunshine and followed my taste buds to Timble, Askwith and the newly opened Cock Pit Farm café at Weston for lunch. Then I ambled back through Otley to

Pool, Castley, Dunkeswick and Kirkby Overblow, arriving home about 4.15 after 52 splendid miles. Malcolm

Long Ride Report

Leaving my route details and map on the kitchen table may not be the best start to a day but the ride to Castle Howard was almost perfect. Eric had a map tucked away in an unused water bottle and Bill had his usual extensive local knowledge to keep me on the right route. We had a speedy trip across the Vale of York to our first café stop in the pretty village of Coxwold. I had to chivvy the group back onto their bikes or I think we might have stayed several hours in the attractive garden of the tearooms.

The views from the Hambleton hills were brilliant in the clear sunny weather as we headed from Ampleforth towards Castle Howard via Nunnington and Slingsby. A late lunch was taken in the tearooms of Sutton Park and then we returned back to Harrogate via Aldwark.

A great day out, we covered about 78 miles, at a fairly quick average of 14.1 mph. Thanks to all. Phil



