

Sunday, October 18, 2009
Wheel Easy Ride Report 182



Short Ride Report

Today's short ride proved to be quite popular even for a fairly warm October morning with 11 riders opting for this, making it a dozen including the leader! We all kept our fingers crossed that Trevor would make it all the way without a puncture having suffered four the previous week and one the week before that! Apart from the ride leader having other things on later, we had one new rider whose electric bike did limit him to 20 miles worth of battery power so that really was a matter to be considered!

At a nice steady pace we left Hornbeam along Rayleigh Road towards St George's Road and through the estate, taking in the quiet cycle paths into Beckwith Knowle. Cutting through Greengate pointing out "The Hub" for any cyclists needing refreshment but only open Monday to Friday and out the other end onto Cardale Park. Back on route to Burn Bridge, this was the point of no return as from here we headed off on to the Leeds bound A61 but turning off on to the track towards Kirkby Overblow. Sarah did decide that due to time constraints she would leave the group and cycle home.

Having reached Kirkby Overblow in good time, no-one wanted to extend the route so we made our way to the southern by-pass. Here the group got smaller as some headed for Leeds Road and Pannal whilst the others headed for Rudding Golf Club and out to Wetherby Road where the rest split again and headed for home.

Having said goodbye to Trevor at the Pannal split, I hope the rest of his journey remained puncture free! Sue T

Medium Ride Report

Twenty two riders opted for the medium ride and Max kindly offered to take one group of nine riders. The remainder set off at a keen pace via Beckwithshaw and Menwith, and before we knew it we were at Hampsthwaite. After discussing whether to do an extra loop or go for coffee at Valley Gardens, a few opted to go home and surprise their other halves but the majority preferred to go for a hot drink. It was a lovely ride but not enough miles!
Paul T

Wow! how successful is Wheel Easy when on a crisp Autumnal morning there were so many Medium Riders that the ride had to be split up into three groups, two medium and one medium plus.

Nine of us set out on the medium slow ride. We did try to encourage Trevor "the puncture" to join us to become the tenth, as he set off on the short ride, but he turned a deaf ear. Perhaps he was short of time or just didn't fancy being left by the wayside again in a heap of rubber, patches and solution. Next time Trevor.

The ride leader had his view of what the ride was, unfortunately so did the ride leader's better half. Of course she was right but we went the ride leader's way just because we could. Up past the Squinting Cat, right at the end of Otley Road, down and up to the millennium roundabout and left down Pennypot Lane (will this still be possible when the new refuse facility is built?). We peletoned along PPL where occasionally the tranquillity of the morning was interrupted by gentle moaning.

At a quieter moment someone enquired of Crawford "What is worn under a Scotsman's kilt?" to which the reply was "nothing, its all in perfect working order!" Clearly there was some confusion here and we believe that he was referring to his new ball race and rear cassette. Conversing is difficult in the wind.

The end of PPL found us turning right and progressing up the hill to Menwith after carefully crossing the A59. A banana stop preceded the scintillating swoop down to Hampsthwaite and the obligatory team photo. We finished with the usual route back via Killinghall and Knox with the farewell group hug taking place on Bilton Lane. A good ride, several small hills and about 21 miles. Max

Medium Plus Ride Report

It was an inauspicious start as setting off from Hornbeam with 9 riders, David Preston suffered a broken chain. Not to be beaten, as usual, David set off walking home to get another bike intending either to catch us up or have a good ride on his own. The rest of us continued up to Beckwithshaw where we were joined by Phil Snowden and then it was over the moor and stopping at the car park for a quick break. However, looking back over the horizon the other medium ride was setting a cracking pace and was bearing down on us. So we set off briskly and it felt like being Jessie James with the sheriff's posse chasing us over the hill.

We went past the Sun Inn and Menwith Hill before climbing up to Greenhow Hill. The temperature plummeted and there was a very wintry feel to the day as we went into Stump Cross Café for our break. But, Oh No! here comes another posse! Phil Stell and the long ride appeared over the hill galloping down on us at great speed having taken a longer route out of Harrogate.

The highlight of the day was, without a shadow of doubt, Helen's birthday party. And after celebratory pictures and cake, we returned down into Bewerley village along Peat Lane.

Then it was a climb up to Glasshouses, and we followed the Nidd Valley road down through Summerbridge and over the Hartwith Toll Bridge, returning to Harrogate via Birstwith and Hampsthwaite. 42 chilly miles in total - time for the winter woollies. Martin W

Long Ride Report

Any credibility I may have had as a ride leader has now completely disappeared. Billed as being a quick pace ride 5 of us (Bill, Charles, Ian, Glynn and myself) set off to meet the medium plus ride at Stump Cross Caverns. My chosen route was to go via Hampsthwaite, Darley, Thornthwaite and then along Duck Street to Greenhow. I confidently expected to be sitting with a cuppa as the medium ride struggled in but we arrived well and truly last - so much for high tech lightweight bikes - anyone know where I can get some new legs? Bill decided to return to Harrogate with the medium ride but the rest continued with the planned route to Bolton Abbey. The spectacular views seemed to be intensified by the threatening grey afternoon and helped to take our minds off the suffering as we climbed the double chevron hill to Storiths followed by an ascent to Beamsley Beacon (another double chevron climb). The steep hills gave Ian the opportunity to impress us with his climbing technique which must have been inspired by racing alongside Roberto Heras at the Brompton World Championships.

At Askwith we went up the hill (what a surprise) and then onto Fewston for charity tea and cake at the Village Hall. A great day out about 53 miles and I believe somewhere around Hampsthwaite I may have said I wasn't expecting it to be a hilly ride! Phil



