

Sunday, December 13, 2009

Wheel Easy Ride Report 190



A sunny day, little or no wind and a slight nip in the air, perfect cycling weather and another good turn out at Hornbeam Park. Dave P

After today's rides about 70 people attended the Wheel Easy Christmas meal at the Hockey Club. A big thank you to everyone who made the occasion such a success.

Short Ride Report

Our nicely balanced (5 ladies and 5 chaps) short ride group cut through the Yorkshire Showground to Follifoot, Spofforth and Wetherby where we enjoyed the, as always, excellent hot chocolate and coffees at The Gourmet Café. We returned along the Knaresborough Road, some taking a shorter route home to get ready for the Christmas Lunch, with 7 of us completing the full 20 mile route to Knaresborough and Harrogate. A lovely ride taken at a moderate pace enabling us to savour a perfect winter's day. Malcolm

Medium Ride Report

Thirteen riders left Hornbeam for the ride to Brimham Rocks via Knox, Hampsthwaite, Clint Bank and Burnt Yates. The group was growing in numbers as we made our way to Knox where we decided to split the 26 riders into two groups and Steve kindly offered to lead a group at a faster pace. The ride to Brimham was lovely with many challenging hills and once there we had the reward of the downward ride to Ripley. At Ripley we met up with the others at the café before making our way back to Harrogate. Overall we cycled 30 miles. Paul

On arriving at Knox ford, it was decided by Paul T that the group of 20 plus was too unmanageable. From that point, 20 of us set off as a 'relatively' fast group, but taking the same course as the others. After a small discussion in Hampsthwaite about whether Paul really had intended us to go to the top of Brimham rocks, it was decided that there was no

escaping it and off we went. The climb was as arduous as ever, but as a reward for our efforts, the sun beat its wintry rays onto us as we reached the top, revealing the beautiful view which makes a climb like that worth it. (See picture of cyclists bathed in wintry rays...) The next joy to the ride was the wonderful down hill all the way to the Drover's road. After another discussion at the bottom of the hill, we decided that the best plan was to return straight to Ripley for a cuppa and then home (or on to the Christmas lunch). As we were leaving the coffee house, the other half of the group was arriving. So logistics, weather, and scenery all made this a very enjoyable ride! Stephen

Medium Plus Ride Report

The medium plus ride was to Ripon and back via Bishop Monkton, not many takers for this run , five in all, Bill W, Dave P, Neil (from Long Marston) Roy and Peter N. However a nice number for riding through Harrogate. Setting off behind Jill`s long ride to Brimham Rocks we somehow managed to get in front of them before Knox Ford Bridge. They soon left us behind on the road to Hampsthwaite, our next objective would be to see if we could get to Spa Cafe before them. From Hampsthwaite to Shaw Mills and Bishop Thornton and on to Studley Park where there was a magnificent sight of all the deer being fed. They were in a large circle (both Roe and Fallow ?) watched by a crowd of walkers and photographers. It was a pleasure to freewheel down the Park in the sun (we usually have to climb up the hill) to make the cafe for 11-25am.

Leaving at 12 noon we met Jill's long ride just entering the park . On the way back we were picked up Peter B from the long ride and a young man called Johnny, who had not been on his bike for two months but then shot away from us with ease on his young legs. We were again overtaken by "was it a bird ? was it a plane ? "no it was super Malcolm Yates who caught us in his slipstream.

Then on to Bishop Monkton, Farnham and the Hockey Club for 1-15 pm, and what was to turn out to be a great afternoon, and then for some the climb up Harlow Hill on a couple of pints and second helpings of Chilli "wonderful". Total mileage around 35 to 37 miles. Though its been said before many thanks from the riders to the people who organised everything so well and gave of their time. Dave P

Long Ride Report

Thirteen set out on a shorter than usual long ride to allow for getting back in time for Christmas lunch. Setting off at a brisk pace we headed out through Hampsthwaite & Burnt Yates & then the steady climb up to Brimham Rocks. There was a brief stop to discuss whether there was enough time to complete the full planned route including a coffee stop & get back for Christmas lunch. The general consensus was that there was, which was definitely the right decision as it then turned into one of those rare perfect sunny winter days. We continued on via Fellbeck up to Dallow Moor & from here it was a wonderful gentle run back down to Grantley, Aldfield, past Fountains Abbey & down through Studley Park to Spa Gardens café, arriving just as Dave & the other medium plus riders were leaving. After some confusion about whether they were serving anything other than Christmas lunches we managed to get teas, coffees & cakes. After a brief stop it was a back to Harrogate via the "usual" route, those of us going to the Christmas lunch arriving at the Hockey Club with 5 minutes to spare after a ride of approximately 42 miles. Jill F

