

Wednesday, December 30, 2009

Wednesday Rides



As the weather was still causing problems there were no organised Wheel Easy rides.

Wheel Easy Walk

Only one cyclist turned up (Chris), and he had set off before Eric arrived. Eric was making plans as we left. There were seven walkers, including Tony's German Pointer, Holly (the most well-behaved of the group).

The 5.98-mile (Yvonne's Garmin!) walk started at Stainburn Forest, so we piled into Martin's car. We walked from the car park across the moor, down to Lindley Reservoir, from where we climbed up through the wood and back to the car. The melting snow made some parts of the walk waterlogged and flooded, but the views across the moors were fantastic, with Swaledale Sheep, stormy skies, snow on the ground and some sleet all adding to the wintry scene. The variety of scenery and the company of others made it a good walk. Yvonne S

EG's Ride Report

It was a grey day! Above the snow line on Harlow Hill all the main roads were clear so no cycling problems. On the way down to Low Bridge Dave P was joined by Eric on his way to pick up James to join DP and Peter B at the bridge. The plain of York was chosen rather than the edge of the Dales considering the past weather and a forecast of sleet, which of course never arrived. Waterside was quite icy, which seemed strange considering all the 4x4 and Chelsea Tractors that live there, one would have assumed their weight would have broken the icy bits.

So on to York via Cowthorpe and Tockwith, again due to past weather conditions it was decided not to use the cycle path and the racecourse crossing but proceed into York via Rufforth and Acomb. A nice warming lunch was had at the cafe near Cliffords Tower.

The same route was taken back, this time with the wind on our back and with the clear roads and a lack of traffic we maintained a good speed. After Cowthorpe we returned via North Deighton, Spofforth and Follifoot. James left us with our Best Wishes for the New Year and a successful operation (which of course it will be).

The hill out of Pannal made DP suffer somewhat as he had been seriously slothful over the Christmas period. Eric did his best to offer some comfort by stating it would be the last time this year he would have to climb this hill. However this was capped by Peter B who said he would like to buy us all a pint in the Harlow Inn. What a great way to finish the last ride of the year. The three of us entered the pub at 3-10pm, Eric left about 4-00pm to give blood, the remaining two left just after 4-30 pm quite happy with 49 to 51 miles under their tyres and grins on their faces. Happy New Year to Wheel Easy and all other cyclists. Look forward to seeing you Sunday 3rd Jan 2010. Dave P



