

Sunday, April 4, 2010

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 206

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Short Ride Report

Hello, here is the ride report for the short ride for Sunday 4th April 2010. With a tummy full of Easter eggs and rather too much lamb, from what could only be classed as an evening of over-indulgence, I was horrified to note that there were only big fast long people milling round at Hornbeam. Thank goodness some fellow slow mediums appeared, and were, due to lack of time tempted to follow a short quick ride rather than pursue the more tempting medium jaunt led by a democracy to Fountains and Ripon. I could tell new girl Anne should really be following a longer faster ride, as she whipped her bike over and sorted out a puncture (despite Alec and Tall John offering advice and help), all before we had even set off. Six riders who wanted to be back for lunch set off at a steady pace to The Show Ground and the New Bike Path, with its lovely hard core. As we came onto Rudding Lane, Sarah appeared on her beautiful new slinky bike. Had she got lost from the 60 mile ride to Thorp Perrow already? No, she had followed the wrong group thinking they were going on a gentle route to Ripon, and a quick prance round some daffodils and back home by lunch time. Luckily the slow ride leader had given such a precise grid referenced, time checked route, she managed to find us with ease and joined us as we, well they, sped up the steep hill to Rudding Park. My plan was to avoid any other hills and rain and cycle to Follifoot, and take the sneaky El Butler route back to the by pass and Calcutt and have a meander round the bike paths of Harrogate. With this in mind, we crossed the by pass, and momentarily lost Sarah as she tried to follow a lone cyclist with a particularly nice bike. At Follifoot, the group decided sensibly to go to Spofforth to admire the daffodils which we did well before coffee time. After a photo call we headed on to North Deighton, where Sarah insisted I tried out her new bike. My goodness, it certainly zoomed along, but a loss of a couple of stone is cheaper and would have a similar effect, I am assured.... Ever mindful of the need to keep Sarah's and Trevor's bikes clean and dry we stopped only briefly in North Rigton, to share some Easter egg nests, and then sped on towards Knaresborough, before the spectacular black cloudage materialised into rain. Crawford, back marking with experience and thought, was herding us onwards and upwards before we arrived at the by pass again at the Knaresborough roundabout, where he decided to avoid following it quickly to Forest Moor and set

off towards home with Anne through Knaresborough. Despite Mary and Debbie's concern we headed up the by pass in a near white out of a sleet storm, making the whole experience quite adrenalin filled. Trevor's sobbing could be heard from the back of the back, as we chanced life and limb crossing onto the road to Thistle Hill and Forest Moor. All bikes still shiny and paint chip free we, no they, sped up Forest Moor towards Morrison's, where I had a little gentle shopping in mind, despite Trevor's obvious horror. Finding Morrison's closed we thankfully took the bike path up to Woodlands Drive where we went our separate ways with people to see and more places to go. A pleasant jaunt with 7 people of 18.12 miles, cycling through sun, hail, rain, wind, calm, sleet and a skyful of incredible clouds, all done by 11.37am. Caroline

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Ride with the Ripon Loiterers  
Only three stalwarts, Sue, Jean and Max, took advantage of the invitation to ride with the Ripon Loiterers on an almost flat loop from Ripon to Snape to see the display of daffodils, that will be even more wonderful in another week, and thence to Thorp Perrow where we found Eric and the fit, fast boys devouring one of their many planned meals of the day. Further greetings were exchanged with some members of the follow up touring group in the café before we set off on the return loop via West Tanfield and the rear of the Light Water Valley entertainments facility. The weather was kind to us apart from the sudden downpour which attacked just as cycles were being put in/attached to cars at the end of the ride. Thanks to our hosts for the selection of a gentle ride and their consideration. There was talk of a reciprocal visit on a Wednesday ride, perhaps in June. 3 x 33 miles (give or take). Max

Medium Ride Report  
Eleven of us set off for the medium ride. We represented those who didn't fancy such a long ride, those who had to be home to do the Easter thing and those to whom both applied! I always like this ride because the hills are over and done with by the time you reach half way. This, combined with a wind which pushed us home, was a winning combo. We plotted checkpoints regularly throughout the ride and then rode at speeds which suited us all in between. The hills up to Clint and Bishop Thornton soon had the blood pumping for all of us. The sight of "Cut Throat Lane" for the whole duration of the Bishop Thornton hill never provides much incentive but before long we were seated in the café at Fountains abbey. We got a few looks for moving a couple of the tables together, but we were a cohesive group and would not be separated!

From there, it was a fantastic swoop down through the grounds of Fountains Abbey where we were all delighted at being able to overtake a car. I don't know how this fits into the Wheel Easy code of conduct, but the exhilaration removed such concerns from us. From Ripon, it was plain sailing although we did, at one point, spy a lonely figure coming towards us. We all straightened up when we realised it was our leader. Malcolm had set off on his own despite a dodgy back. Hope your back's still getting better, Malcolm! I think the ride was about 35 miles but I'm happy to be corrected by someone who isn't just making that up, like I just have...Steve P [35 seems about right - Ed]

Medium Plus Ride and Touring Ride Report  
Shame on the Met Office! We were promised clear blue skies so what was this wet stuff coming down with bits of hail in it? The promise of daffodils had everyone heading north and we were soon through Ripon and on our way to Snape and Thorp Perrow. The sun was out but the daffs had not all got the message that we were coming to see them and some were still in bud. Anyway the scene was still fantastic in the village. And the sun shone on us for lunch at Thorp Perrow where we met up with some of the Ripon Loiterers in the café. Then came the big (in)decision! Many of the Medium Plus riders were tempted to return home with the touring ride via the hills above Masham, and finally everyone came that way, including

our 3 new riders for the day, Kathy, Brian and Andy. A long steady climb out of Masham and on above Swinton should have given us a spectacular view but all we could see were storm clouds heading straight for us and sure enough we copped a drenching. The decision to head back quickly for the Sun Parlour Café in Ripon was unanimous, and we were soon warming ourselves over tea and scones. At this point Andy told us that he had not done more than 30 miles before so this was a big step up. (Judging by his exploits in ultra-distance fell running his version of a gradual increase in mileage will be to add 50 miles to the distance each week!) A brisk ride back home via Knaresborough rounded off a good spring ride. 17 Riders covered 63 Miles. Martin W.  
 (One solo cyclist followed virtually the same route about 2 hours later, adding another 63 Wheel Easy miles to the day's total.)

**Long Ride Report**  
 The long ride followed the pleasant route to Thorp Perrow where we stopped for lunch. We hit the road again just as the others were arriving and headed for Masham. We took a rather less pleasant (at least more arduous) route past Leighton Reservoir and over Jordan Moss to Lofthouse. A quick blast down the Nidd Valley was followed by a tea stop at Pateley Bridge where Eric tucked into an enormous portion of the Lemon Meringue caff's signature dish. To help Eric work off the excess calories we decided to tackle Yorkes Folly and then headed home via Hampsthwaite. A great day out, mostly sunny with a couple of small showers. Mileage: 5 riders 65 miles. Phil

2010    Wheel    Easy    Miles    (approx)    Today    2069    YTD    26807



