

Sunday, May 16, 2010

Wheel Easy Ride Report 212



Short Ride Report
Eleven cyclists started the ride led by Sarah, One departed after about 12 miles, leaving the rest to complete a route of around 17 miles through Farnham, Lingerfield and Scriven.

Click on slide show for all today's photos

Medium Ride Report
I don't mind leading rides but I'm never keen on writing reports! Maybe it's that word report reminding me of bad ones at school, or for a limited time when I worked as a teacher trying to think up something constructive for a bad pupil. So today we had a lovely morning, everyone was well behaved and they all put in a very good effort. Lots of hills, Kettlesing, Fewston, nice coffee and scones at the Parochial Hall than back via the reservoir and Little Alms Cliff to Harrogate for half twelve. We started with 8, Sue and John were allowed off early, lost one and came back with 6. One black mark for the bearded one who mutinied on the route to Knox. You know who you are, write out ten times "where there's a cycle track I must use it"! 25 miles. Paul R

Medium Plus Ride Report
The medium plus ride to Otley via Fewston is one of my favourite local rides due to the challenging hills, breathtaking views and the excellent coffee stop. Gia, Sue, Monica, Peter, Andy and Paul opted for a slower pace ride but met up with the faster group at the Cock Pit Farm tea room. Once on Whinney Lane we realised there was a westerly wind and we continued slowly to Beckwithshaw and Stainburn Woods where we stopped for a short break to recover! The wind seemed to ease as we cycled onto Fewston, Timble, Snowden Village, Askwith and Weston. After coffee the pace picked up as we cycled through Otley, Poole, Castley, Weeton, Dunkeswick and Kirkby. An enjoyable ride covering 30 miles. Overblow, Paul T

When almost all the mornings riders leapt at the chance of Eric's long ride this morning I actually thought for a moment that I may just have to lead myself! (I should be able to manage that!) However, seven fine athletes decided to join me on the slightly quicker version of the medium plus route, so we set off from Hornbeam at a brisk pace through town and down toward Knox. After we had all successfully navigated our route across the ever busy A61 we headed onto Hampsthwaite and left up the high street, toward Kettlesing (A very picturesque village tucked away just beyond the A59). After Quite a hilly start to the ride that I'm sure warmed all of us rapidly, various layers were shed!! For the second time we all thankfully made our way across the another treacherous road, the A59 and on toward Penny Pot Lane and toward Fewston/Timble. At this point our numbers were reduced to 6 as Mark was time constrained and had already been out here once this morning! (I was under the impression Mark would be heading straight home, however one of my secret squirrels informs me that he may have detoured to the parochial hall for a quick brew!) Two more climbs to go; up into Timble, then onto Little Snowdon (ironic name! as some of you may know there is a pretty nasty climb at the end!) However a nice long descent into Askwith and onto Cock Pit farm for a well deserved drink and a little nibble! (one of our members may have ordered one of everything ..plates of food just kept arriving!) Now the wind was behind us we used it to our advantage and decided on the route toward Farnley and Leathley and another long descent toward the crossroads heading toward Castley, Weeton and onto Dunkeswick. At this point we said our farewell's to Glynn (on his very nice and expensive looking, loaned Trek Madone) who headed off home. We continued on toward Kirkby Overblow, over the A658 and decided on going towards Pannal and straight up the A61 where each of us peeled off one by one on our various routes home. A great ride of about 40 or so miles and potentially a new Wheel Easy member jumping in on the end of photo at cock pit farm ...He's called George!! Paul A

Long Ride Report
 19 riders moved into the launchpad C of Hornbeam Park, all volunteer astronauts to venture to the farthest parts of the Solar System. We then split into three teams - well OK - I had to cajole them into 3 teams: the fast boys (and Jill) being particularly reticent to blast off on their own. So I gave them a map of the universe with their route clearly marked and bid them bon voyage. Their route would be 70 miles via Aldwark Toll Bridge, Beningbrough, where they join National Cycle Network Route 65 for the delightful cycle track alongside the River Ouse into York, and then onto the Solar System on the York-Selby cyclepath. The remaining 14 astronauts were divided into 2 teams of 7, piloted by Dave P and Eric W. Both groups took the shorter route to York via Knaresborough, Little Ribston, Tockwith, Long Marston and Askham Richard. At Knaresborough, whilst the crew of Shuttle B were investigating a malfunction to the gear mechanism on Paul's rocketmobile, Astronaut Dave W joined and jumped aboard Dave P's Shuttle A. Passing Little Ribston, Keith suggested an alternative route for Shuttle B, so our flight plan was changed and we diverted through Ribston Park. A very pleasant diversion indeed, and we were particularly impressed with the service when the very imposing double gates opened automatically as we approached to aid our exit! When we eventually arrived at the Solar System on the York-Selby cycle path, Keith studied the small information plaque about the Sun, and then announced he was fairly sure something was missing as he thought there was another object there last time. I suggested he might look upwards, and he then noticed the 8' diameter Sun suspended above his head. "Yes, that might be it!" (see photo) We quickly passed Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars and Bishopthorpe -not quite sure how that got there! Then Jupiter and Saturn before stopping at Naburn Station for Shuttles A and B to rendezvous over refreshments. Peter B, cycling from Beverley, also joined us, and hitched a ride home on Dave P's Shuttle A. 16 hungry astronauts were clearly more than the earthlings at Naburn Station could cope with as their facilities were stretched beyond their meagre limits. Even a glass of milk took 20 minutes to arrive - which is 7 million light years on this scale model of the Solar system! And their coffee? Best advice: avoid!

Just as we were preparing to resume our journey towards Uranus, the fast boys (and Jill) arrived from Saturn, pausing briefly to let us know how pleased they were to have got through York without getting lost. No big deal for the expert navigators onboard Shuttles A & B! After Uranus, a few more million miles got us to Neptune, and finally Pluto, where the crew of Shuttle B orbited the tiny planet (or is it an asteroid?) for another photo. We quickly returned to Yorkshire, cycling through Riccall and Kelfield. Shuttle B was now ahead of A, and captain Eric did the noble deed of tidying up the road for both shuttles by cycling over a drawing pin so that he got the puncture instead of any of his crew members. After Cawood and Ulleskelf, Keith took us on another diversion through yet another stately home, this time Grimston Hall and Park - what lofty circles Keith and Helen must move in! All three teams of astronauts were united at Tykes Tea Rooms in Tadcaster, before setting off on the final leg of the journey to Wighill, Thorp Arch, along the Wetherby Railway Path to Spofforth, then back to Harrogate. A great ride, immensely enjoyed by all, and in weather far better than forecasters expected. Notes for Captains Log: in earthly miles the 16 astronauts on board Shuttles A and B clocked up 60 miles each = 960 miles. The 4 fast boys (and Jill) clocked up 70 miles each = 350 miles. So combined mileage was 1310, plus the 473 billion miles crossing the universe, makes a grand total 473,000,001,310 miles Wheel Easy miles today. Eric W.

Eric`s Interplanetary Ride. Astronauts Group 3 Report. Eric split us up into three groups to make the journey into space more manageable, so Dave P, Gary, Karen, Sally, Linda, Carl and Vali headed for Low Bridge where we picked Dave W who was to ride back marker for us. At Low Bridge we overtook Eric`s group and headed for Cowthorpe, Long Marston, Askham Richard and the A64 cycle path to York. Then on to the York / Selby cycle path and the Solar System to take Tea/Coffee etc at Naburn station. Here we were joined by Peter B who had ridden from Beverley. We were soon joined by Eric`s group who had slightly deviated on their way to the solar system ???.

Then along came the longer faster group including Geoff Morgan and Jill who declined to stop and set off for Pluto. Next to set off was group 3, Eric had asked us to meet at Pluto, eventually we got to the sign that said to Pluto, here DP`s astronavigation went astray, reaching the end of the cyclepath without seeing Pluto. So leaving Group 3 at the path end DP cycled back a few yards till he heard Eric`s voice coming out of the bushes, then some ladies voices also ????, giving a discrete cough DP enquired if they were at Pluto?, indeed they were! A quick photo shoot then on to Riccall for a short drink and mars bar stop, here we were over taken by Eric`s group. Then on to Kelfield where Eric`s group had punctured (everything under control) so Group 3 proceeded to Cawood, Ulleskelf and on to Tadcaster to Tykes Tearoom where the long faster group was just about to leave. Soon we were joined by Eric`s group, so this cafe had been well patronised by Wheel Easy. Dave W left us here for quick return to Knaresborough (thanks Dave for riding back marker, that role is always a big help to a ride leader) Then it was back to Harrogate via the cycle paths to Spofforth and through the Yorkshire Show Ground..

Thanks to Eric for the excellent organisation and all the riders in group 3 who rode so well. Dave

2010	Wheel	Easy	Miles	(approx)	Today	2125	YTD	45538
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