

Sunday, June 6, 2010

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 215

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Great Yorkshire Bike Ride. Saturday 5th June  
We are not sure how many Wheel Easy riders were out today as different start times meant that we did not all start together. The start was much better than last year and they got people away much more quickly, but maybe those further back in the queue could tell us of their experience. The sun was shining, it was warm and the wind such as it was blowing behind us at times. Everyone seemed comfortable with the ride, teaming up with people of similar speeds and avoiding one or two nasty bike pileups. Many of us arrived at lunch at about 10.00-10.15 but all tucked in to sandwiches, pasta, fruit, chocolate and coffee. We sped on to Filey where most of us will have avoided a huge downpour which flooded the roads on our return journey in the bus. Highlight of the day was to see El Butler powering along and arriving in Filey with a huge grin on his face, also to first timers, Sally and Eric who had a great ride. The last we saw of Eric was him setting off to ride home, following in Malcolm's exploits of the last two years. Hope he had a good ride back and survived the storm. Once again, the organisation was excellent and the weather made it a great day out. Gia

A 6.15 ride out from Harrogate ensured a place at the front and we were joined by Steve Wilson. He was soon making his excuses why he wouldn't be able to stay with us but he kept well on the pace all-day and beat our tandem up the hills. Further back a collection of Wheel Easy Jerseys and faces were present. A good turnout for the club. We started at 7.30 and then kept up a good pace with very little traffic motorised or pedal power, and it was soon clear we were going to break all records for arriving at Filey. The lunch stop was at 10.00am, that was novel, but having had breakfast at 5.30am it went down really well, but the super quantity of food meant a slightly slower pace was achieved for the next 5 miles. Malton was unusually easily negotiated and then up Settrington Bank and the glorious steady downhill into the valley and on to Filey for 1.15pm. This year we opted for bus return, and it was a really hot and uncomfortable ride. Mental note: next year return to our preferred B&B option and ride back next day. Otherwise a perfect day for a long ride and the rain held off until we were in the bus. Martin and Yvonne

What a fantastic day for a GYBR virgin to ride it for the first time. On the way back the weather was very kind to us. When we got back to the final drinks station for more tea and cakes, we sat by some ladies in rain jackets. I asked them if this was because they'd been through rain, or because they were expecting rain. They said they'd just come through a monsoon - thankfully we missed it, although the roads were awash for a while, and we enjoyed glorious weather all the way home. I exchanged greetings with 6 or 7 more Wheel Easy riders still on their way to Filey. Mark Sinton was going to York, so we separated at the next drinks station. In the meantime, I'd been joined by Robbie, a 23 year old from Boston Spa who was great company. He was a runner and unbelievably fit, but he'd never cycled further than 50 miles before, and wants to cycle back from Istanbul!!!!

The two of us stopped for 45 minutes in Malton for fish & chips. We later stopped at Stillington to admire the two traction engines, now in steam, and he asked me how far we had to go. There was a signpost saying 'Easingwold 3', so I said it would be about 28 miles. He then said "Yes, I can make it - dammit I can run home from here!" I didn't go all the way to Wetherby, but turned off the A168 to come via Arkendale, Ferrensby and Knaresborough. Arrived home at 9.15pm, having completed 144 miles at average speed of 14.8mph. I slept well!!! What a great turn out from Wheel Easy. Eric

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Sunday Rides  
Short Ride Report

Fresh from the Giro de Filey and not wanting to peak too soon before the Tour de Beningborough, El Butler joined the six riders who had opted for the Criterium de Dauphanoise potato Petit Almscliffe. Conditions were moist as the Commissaire Mr. Tindle explained the rules and order of the days racings. We undertook a slick rolling start and set off along the track to Fulwith Mill. Crossing the Leeds road towards the Mallinson estate and on towards Rossett we sped, aware of what was at stake.....? What? The peloton worked well together with no obvious breakaways heading up the incline passed Rossett School, The Squinting Cat, (where sadly no one offered us an Amstrad Gold, despite the lack of coffee stops during this stage of the race), and up along rolling terrain where rouleur Caroline Cancellouta, kept the group shielded from the wind. As we approached the first climb of the day up the north face of the Petit Almscliffe, grimpeur Suzy Schleck and puncheur Jean Kloden, were tricked by two lead out men Peter Hushord and El Butler, who surged to the top of this category 2 climb effortlessly. On reaching the top of this testing climb new young rider Chris Contador, suffering from numb bum syndrome was advised by the expert Suzy Schleck that Waitrose Baby Bottom Buttter was the key to successful saddle craft. From this point it was downhill all the way. We drank from our bidons and took snacks from our musettes to avoid dehydration and the bonk. Barourdeur Darroni Nibbally who was obviously taking some forbidden substance, possibly carrot juice, judging from his bunny hopping and wheelies, kept trying understandably break away from the main peloton and get on with his practising for the Bed Race next Saturday, and despite team leader Cancellouta's effort, he found himself disqualified from the sprint stage down Penny Pot Lane, and the victory was snatched from his grasp by the surprised and cheating rouleur Cancellouta. At 15 mile mark the grupetto were asked if they would like to get to the finish of the stage or add a loop and in true WE fashion it was decided to avoid the category 1 climb out passed the old Ethelburger's School and take the rolling route back along the lanes eastish or northish of Hampsthwaite, where a media photo call and bike modelling took place. The second category 2 mountain climb up Knox Lane was completed as puncheur Jean Kloden and lead out man El Butler retired from the race with excuses of lunch and dusting. The remaining 5 braved the cobbles of Skipton Road, and even though our lanterne rouge Peter Hushord and Cancellouta abandoned the peloton at the Flame Rouge mark everyone was returned to where they wanted to end up before 12 o'clock.. For Malcolm's record 7 people at 21.48 miles, and for the web site 15 miles of gentle

cycling with escape points at 8 and 13 miles. Caroline  
Click on slide show for all today's photos

Medium Ride Report  
Twelve intrepid souls set off in persistent rain aiming for a cafe stop at The Sticky Wicket. Speeding down the hill into Hampsthwaite the rain resembled a power shower but the group was undeterred. Everyone managed the stiff hills around Sawley but were glad when a chance to shelter from the rain came at Markington, 11 bacon sandwiches (1 scone and jam) plus hot beverages prepared us for the very wet homeward ride. After queuing for the multi sexual toilets (according to one rider) corrected to bisexual toilets by Dave P although probably unisex was best we set off for home. Some drama on the busy Boroughbridge road as the Wheel Easy RSPB section in the form of Peter Bradley was called into action to stop traffic in both directions to save 3 guinea fowl from extinction. We parted company in Knaresborough and decided it was a ride none of us would have done alone but with jolly company it had been fun despite the rain. 12 X 33 miles. Sue C

Long Ride Report  
Two of the nine who departed on the long(ish) ride were impressively fresh from the previous day's GYBR . Glynn who just can't lay off that new bike and Nick who unfortunately believed the forecast for light showers and consequently was so wet that he turned for home with Peter at Otley.  
At the Middleton turn there was a general consensus to enjoy the riverside route rather than Langbar and a potentially exciting wet slide down to Beamsley. This took us nicely to the preferred Abbey Tea Room for lunch and an opportunity to grade the effectiveness of the various raingear being used. We all know that WE is about more than cycling and the luncheon debate, chaired so diplomatically by Charles, once again proved the point although the colour of the sky did rather influence the conclusions on just about all the worlds problems. The route then continued over the Wooden Bridge toward Appletreewick and then right for the climb up to the Patley Bridge Road to Greenhow Hill where again we chose against a wet descent to Glasshouse in favour of the long cruise down Duck Street to Menwith Hill , Hampsthwaite and home.  
A good ride enjoyed by all even though the rain never stopped Peter  
53 miles.

2010	Wheel	Easy	Miles	(approx)	Weekend	3093	YTD	59573
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