

Sunday, June 20, 2010

Wheel Easy Ride Report 217



Short Ride Report
What a great party, oops, I mean bike ride!
It started at Hornbeam where David was giving his classic Hetchens Bike a rare airing in the sunshine (see photo). For those who haven't seen it up close this is a beautiful piece of engineering, a work of art by real craftsmen. Eight of us made up the short ride - the "Easy Riders" (Dennis Hopper would have been proud). There were 4 newcomers, Geraldine, John, Andrea and Michelle, the latter having been on the 0-30 sessions we ran a few years back. So it was good to see some new faces, and we kept our promise of a maximum 15 miles at a relaxed pace. We headed out west from Harrogate to lovely sunlit hills and continued on beyond Beckwithshaw. The tearoom at the Braythorne Honey Farm was not to be missed so we sat with the hens in the sunny, grassy, farmyard and enjoyed tea, coffee and honey cake. We dragged ourselves away after a good break and chat, and headed back down the long steady lane to Burn Bridge and home.
Martin

Click on slide show for all today's photos

Medium Ride Report
The 'Magnificent Seven' on the Medium ride went to Knaresborough via Calcutt and Abbey Road and then to Little Ribston, Cowthorpe, Cattle and Great Ouseburn. Here we decided to go to Boroughbridge for a coffee stop, then off we went to Minskip, Farnham and back home through Knaresborough. A good ride out and company and at a good steady pace. About 35 miles. Darren

Medium Plus Ride Report. Five Ride Challenge to York.
Thirteen of us set off for York, collecting Crawford in Knaresborough. He was waiting for the medium ride but they sailed past too quickly for him so we gathered him up and he rode with us to Marston Moor.

At Tockwith we picked up Keith and Helen, fit and raring to go after their two week walking tour of Scotland.

The run to York was lovely, nice pace, sunny weather and not too much wind to slow our progress. We arrived in York where we met Jon P who chased us from Harrogate, Eric and James who were shopping and Dave P and Peter B with the fast boys (and one girl) who rode via Beningborough. Malcolm and his girls, Sue C on her fine new steed, Sarah C and Karen enjoyed the Beningborough route with the added benefit of a stop at the farm shop where they have installed some excellent benches to sit on outside. Paul T took the group back to Harrogate, well done to Caroline, Debbie, Sue T, Sue W, Paul B, Jane and John W who rode a good pace and will have completed 50 miles by the time they got back.

Gia attached herself to Malcolm (!) and his girls, Jon joined us and we had a fast run back home with the wind on our backs and the sun on our faces. What more could you ask for? Gia

The ride back to Harrogate was excellent. We kept up a good pace and only stopped briefly at Long Marston. After passing through Cowthorpe the group was unsure which was the quickest way back to Hornbeam, so we split into two groups. Was it via Spofforth or Knaresborough? The mileage for the last leg of the ride is:
Via Knaresborough: 7.9 miles
Via Spofforth: 8.2 miles (and 5 minutes quicker!) Paul

Of the rides to York, two groups went via Beningborough, slower one and a faster one. The faster one was officially described as at a medium to brisk pace, however to DP it felt like an eyeballs out sprint.

Ten riders set off for Knaresborough, Aldwark Bridge and Beningborough Hall grounds. In the grounds the siren calls of caffiene at the farm shop cafe played on DP`s will power, but a man s gotta do what a man s gotta do , and responsibility weighed heavy on certain shoulders to get the group to Knavesmire on time.

As a concession a banana break was taken at the grounds exit (and some hedges watered) sorry ! I know to much detail.

Here Ian left us to return to Harrogate to do some scholarly work. Then on to York via cycle route 65. Near the Youth Hostel the path was closed, so the route into York was taken on the West bank route, arriving on Knavesmire about 12-15pm. Soon we were together with other Wheeleasier`s enjoying a pleasant picnic in the sun. After a look round/spend money, groups made their own way back to Harrogate. A group of five set off just before 2-00pm again the pace could be described as "not hanging about".

A short break was taken at Marston Moor (heaven for some), then on again till another Wheeleasy group was met just after Cowthorpe, here DP endeavoured to have a short conversation with Paul T, though its unlikely Paul could understand what had been said through the panting and gasping. Hills seemed to get steeper as we approached Hookstone carpark, however there it was and mileage carpark to carpark was around 58 miles. A great cycling day, fine weather, good companionship, and for some a bit of a challenge, which we all need now and again. Dave P

Long Ride Report
It's the quality that counts and to prove it 4 of WE's long riders turned their backs to York and headed for the hills. Sure there was some muttering about Sunday colleagues going shopping but we cruised along enjoying a summer morning until two young blades had the temerity to pass us on the hill after Fewston on the Blubberhouse to Otley road. This was too much for Geoff who took off in pursuit forcing them to use evasive tactics by going in different directions at the Askwith turn. But our star was fired up and we struggled in his wake at a cracking pace through Bolton Abbey, Embsay to the B6256 where he declared the best solution to the heavy traffic was to go faster. Over lunch at Cracoe Geoff declared an interest in learning how to use cycle brakes which gave

Alec, Jill and me some encouragement that we might keep up on some sections. The superb views of Wharfedale from the lovely road through Thorpe to Burnsall encouraged a more leisurely pace which continued to Appletreewick and Greenhow before the Duck Street Dash to Hampsthwaite and home. A great ride in lovely weather with some of the best views around the Dales. 65 miles. Peter

2010 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 2105 YTD 65375

