

Sunday, July 4, 2010

Wheel Easy Ride Report 219



Wheel Easy Awayday to Bridlington
3 months planning finally came to fruition on Sunday morning - Wheel Easy's first Awayday! The plan was to cycle to pastures new by using Yorkshire Bikeline from Hull to transport 49 riders and their bikes back from Bridlington (long ride) and Pocklington (medium ride). During the last few days there had been 9 cancellations, some of these spare places were then taken by a number of reserves: so in the end 44 riders enjoyed the day out. 32 rode to Bridlington (18 at 'touring pace' starting at 7.00am and 14 at a faster pace starting at 7.30am) and 12 to Pocklington starting at 9.30am. Each of these 3 rides were then split into 2 groups so that all the groups were between 6 and 9 riders. After weeks of wonderful weather, the Met Office forecast high winds and rain for Sunday. The rain - coming in from the west - thankfully never caught us up. The wind started off against us on our way to York, but then changed to the South West, so that for the later parts of the ride we were enjoying the most blissful conditions. 29mph uphill with a tailwind - can cycling get better than this? From York to Bridlington, we were mainly following the Sustrans 'Way of the Roses' route, which will be officially launched in September. The scenery after Pocklington is brilliant, and our enjoyment was enhanced by a buzzard flying out of the nearby trees and circling around as we passed. The route from Hornbeam to Bridlington was planned to take 79 miles, but somehow it turned out to be 86 for our group! Most of the extra occurred when I was not watching satnav, and we took a small deviation into Nafferton. It slowly emerged that we'd been lured into the Bermuda triangle! We circumnavigated Nafferton three times before finding the correct way out, and finally - in true Sustrans Rangers style - moved a cycle signpost round to point in the correct direction to avoid other cyclists falling into the same trap. Our group decided to skip the refreshment stop at Burton Agnes so we could do justice to the fish & chips at Bridlington. The 7 of us 'went large' opting for the whale-size haddock plus chips, peas, bread & butter, and still had space for 'chocolate lumpy bumpy cake with ice cream' or similar overindulgence in calories, before meeting up with the Bikeline coach and trailer. There were lots of smiling faces when all the groups finally met up on the coach. The only disappointment of the

day seemed to be the non-appearance of the Red Arrows to mark our arrival in Bridlington! Notes for the Captains log: 32 long riders averaged 85 miles each (yes, some other groups took diversions too!) and 12 medium riders averaged 50 miles each (including their diversion to Naburn Station for lunch), 3320 miles total for the Awayday. Eric

Eric Waters did a superb job in organising our ride to Pocklington and Bridlington. A total of 45 riders enjoyed a beautiful sunny day heading east into new countryside for many. For those doing the longer ride the beautiful scenery of the Wolds was breathtaking to be finished off with an ice cream (or more) at Bridlington. My own group set off at 7.00pm from Hornbeam and enjoyed a brisk ride through to York and then to Pocklington, albeit a little hampered by road works and road closures. The stop beyond Pocklington was at the Buddhist retreat and World Peace Café - a new experience for most of us. After that we rode up through the valleys and views of the Wolds in the sunshine, and then onto Burton Agnes Hall, before completing the ride to Bridlington. The Yorkshire Bikeline picked us up at Bridlington and Pocklington. The bikes were well looked after and we had a steady driver so the land of nod beckoned many. Cycling doesn't get much better than this! Well done Eric and well done to all the riders with the long ride achieving 80 miles in good time. Martin W

Click on slide show for all awayday photos

An early start at Hookstone car park, with the weather promising to be better than the forecast. Martin sent the first group of eight away minutes before 7.00 am. Comprising John Winterburn, Paul Tindle, Charles Raduazo, Alec and Sue Welham, Richard Pugh, Bill Whale and Dave Preston. Down to Low Bridge to pick up Denis Butler and Dave Watson at Grimbold Bridge then on to Tockwith with a stop for a drink/snack at Marston Moor battlefield, this was in case there were no cafes open in York and this proved the case (if there were we missed 'em). Soon to be joined by Martin's group, but with us leaving first. Crossing the Millennium bridge it was on to Imphal Barracks (but we were too old to join the army) and through York university (but we had no time to study, and some of us were fearful of exams). Crossing the closed bridge at Sutton upon Derwent was not a problem, however Dave P in his keenness to follow the correct route took his eye off the ball and a slight deviation was made (not a lot though). Then it was into Pocklington for the first coffee stop of the day, at a cafe called Heike's Imbiss. We were soon joined by the Wheelspeedy group who told us that Martin had got a reduction in entry fee from £5 to one pound at Burnham Hall Gardens and hence the café. However, the imbiss service was sehr schnell and we were soon on our way to Millington though a beautiful little valley with a climb up to Huggate then a swoop down to Tibthorpe. A slight deviation at Hutton Cranswick (eye off the ball again Preston, poor sign posting!!) and on for afternoon tea at Burton Agnes Hall. Here we were again soon joined by Martin's group and the Wheelspeedy group, as we were only about eight miles from Bridlington, it says a lot about the start times, speeds and consistency of the three groups and the organisation that went into the total ride. After a climb up to the old Roman Road of Wold Gate it was another swoop down into Bridlington and the coach station, mileage at this point seemed about 82 miles from Hookstone car park. After identifying where the coach park was, people made their own way to the sea front for fish and chips and ice cream. It had been a great ride with superb cycling weather. Many thanks to Eric and Martin for the excellent planning and organisation and to Dave Watson and Paul Tindle for their roles as back markers who contributed greatly to the excellence of our ride. But it didn't end there, whilst loading the bikes for the Pocklington riders it was found we had time to visit the pub (and for us older ones the toilet). Talking of age, for the next bikebus outing Dave P would like a Stannah Stairlift fitted to the coach.

(just one of the little pleasures in life). Dave P

Initially led by Sarah, twelve hopefuls (hopeful that it didn't rain!) left Hornbeam Park with maps, compasses, divining rods, and one Independence Day Stars and Stripes flapping in the breeze., the group headed for Knaresbrough and on to Little Ribston, via Wetherby Road. In a lay-by at the turn-off to Cowthorpe, Sarah, being geographically challenged, ceremoniously handed ride leadership to Paul, who safely and tenderly shepherded us the rest of the way to York, and then onto Pocklington.

Highlights along the way included:

- Disentangling a rider from his pedal due to a loose cleat screw. A delicate operation performed by multiple would-be surgeons without the benefit of a general anaesthetic! After a few tense moments, rider and shoe were proclaimed as 'doing well' and the ride progressed!
- A stop at the historical Marston Moor battle site where we posed for piccies amid the swaying cornfields
- Passing through the tranquil village of Askham Richard, one of whose streets was appropriately named 'Buttacre Lane.' (a Wheeleasy calendar opportunity missed butt easily remedied!)
- A pit stop at York, where we detoured and cycled part of the Solar System path to the route-side cafe at Naseby and caused chaos by ordering 4 different types of bacon butties! (White and crispy, brown and crispy, and white and brown respectively, non-crispy!) Once we were out of sight, I am sure the waitress went to lay down in a darkened room!
- On a bridge overlooking the town of Stamford Bridge, a chance encounter between Sue and pair of female 'geo-cachers' resulted in the burial of a 'Wheeleasy' business card in the corner foundation of the bridge. For those interested, more information can be found at: <http://www.geocashing.com>
- Finally, a tired and thirsty group arrived in Pocklington, and were drawn magnetically to the beer garden of a local hostelry, to rehydrate and await the arrival of the Harrogate cycle charabanc back to Harrogate. A good day was had by all, thanks to Eric, the ride leaders, and the hard-working bus operators! Sarah.E.

Short Ride Report

It was a lovely day for a ride and as I was ride leader I promised I would not be doing any wheelies today! Four of us set off for Knaresborough via the show ground, Calcutt and the lido to Waterside. After coffee we were approached by a policemen who informed us about a new bike security scheme. I initially thought I was going to be questioned about my notorious wheelies! We continued back to Harrogate, completing 13 miles. Everyone enjoyed the morning. Thank you all! Darren

Click on for today's medium ride photo



From [219](#)

Medium Ride Report

I arrived at Hornbeam this morning not really aware of how many people would be left after away day had gone, there were 11 people wanting to do the medium ride and at this point we were without a leader so I volunteered to be leader but I had only had a quick look at the route and I didn't have any maps with me. I asked Mark to be back marker, which he graciously accepted,

and off we went towards Low Bridge at a decent but sensible pace. Although I roughly knew where we were going Julie who was out on her new road bike for only the second time assured me that she knew the route. So onwards and upwards through Farnham up the hill then left to Staveley and Minskip then into Boroughbridge. In Boroughbridge I called a general meeting regarding route, time and most important of all coffee stop, the conclusion reached was that when we arrived at Thornton bridge Kathy and Brian would continue along the original route and turn right and the remaining 9 of us would turn left and continue through Cundall, Asenby where we turned right and then left near the bridge and then to Rainton where we turned left again and headed towards Sharrow and down the hill to the Ripon bypass. Julie and Mark had to leave us at this point due to time constraints, we said our good byes and the remaining 7 of us went to the spa gardens for excellent coffee and cakes at the usual good prices. The plan as we came out of Ripon was to ride along the side of the canal but when I saw how narrow the path was I decided not to go with that one. The last thing I wanted was to try and explain how 7 cyclists had ended up in Ripon canal and I also felt that such an episode would not do my future as a ride leader any favours. As we rode out of Ripon towards Littlethorpe the wind was still quite strong and gusting quite a lot so it was the quickest way we could back to Hornbeam, Angela and Steve left us in Knaresborough, Julie turned off onto the Beryl Burton, Will left us at the top of the hill and Ian continued along towards the Stray leaving just Stephen and I returning to Hornbeam. Everyone had enjoyed the ride which I don't think is a route that Wheel Easy normally use, good ride excellent company, many thanks. Terry

2010	Wheel	Easy	Miles	(approx)	Today	3877	YTD	74615
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