

Sunday, July 11, 2010

Wheel Easy Ride Report 220



Short

Ride

Report

Six riders opted for the short fifteen mile ride on the south side of Harrogate. Three of the group were riding with Wheel Easy for the first time. Karen, Sarah and Howard were all promised that it would be an easy first ride. We were joined by Linda who decided to opt out of the medium ride as her gears were playing up and Paul B who volunteered to be back marker. As we set off for Burn Bridge we were all struggling against the wind and this continued through Beckwithshaw and up the B6161 towards the top of Brackenthwaite Lane. At this point I thought Karen, Sarah and Howard might decide Wheel Easy was not for them, as it was certainly a strong swirling wind! However, all negative thoughts were soon forgotten as we all enjoyed the three mile 'free wheeling' down to Pannal and the coffee stop at Leeds Road Garden Centre. Although we only covered nine miles we tackled a few good hills and certainly battled against the wind. Not the best day for your first Wheel Easy ride! Paul

Click on slide show for all today's photos

Medium

Ride

Report

Another classic Wheel Easy outing- good company, lovely scenery and just a 'few' hills. 13 of us set off from Hornbeam. Joe volunteered to be back marker. We quickly lost Skipton Linda who decided to swap to the short ride. We struggled against the headwind to the Squinting Cat and onwards to Beckwithshaw. Here, disaster struck for Dennis as he had an encounter with a drawing pin resulting in a punctured front tyre and an obliterated drawing pin. We agreed to plod on to Little Almscliffe and meet up there. In the face of a virtual hurricane everyone gritted their teeth and reached the top. Here, what with the cold wind and the leaden skies extra clothes were donned. Big John then sped off home due to other commitments. Reunited with Dennis and Peter, we swooped down the hill and on to Fewston. At the turn-off to the Village Hall, there was some hesitation - did we really want to struggle up to Timble? In the end we went for the Timble loop. Chris set the pace and off we sped. With a stop to admire the refurbished Timble pub [and catch

our breath] we were soon back at the cross-roads and despite a 'sneaky' pull up to the Village Hall soon dithering over which cake to have. Even Dennis tucked in to a piece of coffee cake and assured us he would still manage lunch! Then it was a few ups and downs to get us to a newly re-surfaced Pennypot. Here, Geraldine broke away from the pelaton forming a 'tete de la course' all on her own. The rest of us fairly flew along too helped by the wind, but just could not catch her! As we reached the edge of Harrogate, Kevin and Dennis sensibly turned off while the rest of us struggled up Ethelburga's[possible alternative spelling!] hill. Then onwards to Hornbeam. Thanks to Joe for being such a reassuring back marker. I hope everyone enjoyed the ride as much as I did. 11 people achieved 22 hilly miles + Big John's ride to Little Almscliffe and back. Alison

Medium Plus Ride Report
 A sunny windy day for our medium plus group, depleted in numbers by the attraction of Eric's Malham ride which had set off earlier in the day. Martin did a sterling leading job to get Malcolm and Gia up to Stainburn, then he and Yvonne decided the attraction of Betty's for coffee was a winner so they turned back. The rest of us battled with the winds attacking us from the side but our direction turned enough for it to help us up the long climb to the top of the moor before dropping down to Asquith and on the Cock Pit Café. Here we met a couple of Eric's refugees, Mark and Dennis who were on a short day pass so were on their way home via The Cockpit Café. Sue, the owner, is planning a WI type calendar to raise funds for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance and needs volunteers for the cyclists month! She would like Wheel Easy volunteers!!! The run back via Castley, a new route for Mark T, was excellent with the wind on our backs, Peter J led a burst from Otley to Pool with David, Andy, Mark and Debs keen to hang on to his back wheel.

We left Malcolm at Kirkby Overblow on a WE recruiting mission.
 Home in the sunshine and we didn't get a soaking despite the ominous clouds ahead and above.
 Gia 7x 34miles 2 x 15 miles.

Long Ride Report
 I was amazed by the number of riders who turned up at 8am at Beckwithshaw for the fourth of this year's Wheel Easy "Magnificent Seven" Challenges: the 80 mile ride to Malham. Certainly one of our hilliest and hardest challenges, and the high winds were going to make it even more difficult. At 8.05am the 5 fast boys and Jill set off, with 4 extra riders who didn't have the time to complete the ride, so they would accompany them part way. The 14 touring pace riders were then split into 2 groups, to be led by Eric (the slightly faster group) and Dave (the slightly slower group), so by 8.10am, all 24 riders were on their way. The long drag up Norwood Lane to Little Alms Cliff showed how hard it was going to be to battle into the teeth of the gale, so our group got into a tight chain gang to shelter behind the lead rider and conserve energy. We seemed to act like a magnet to some of the slower group who were pushing hard to catch us. Duck Street was particularly hard, so we had a few minutes rest at Greenhow, before tackling the steep downhill sections past Stump Cross Caverns, down to Dibbles Bridge - we all later swapped stories about how terrifying the fast descents had been in the gale which was then hitting us from the side. At our refreshment stop in Grassington (Cobblestones Cafe), we merged the 2 touring groups together to avoid the second group continuing to fragment, and with quieter roads ahead the larger group would not pose any traffic problems. After the long climb above Arncliffe we stopped for a group photo, before continuing on to Malham Tarn, where we offered 2 routes into Malham, some going straight ahead and down the side of Malham Cove, others turning left & taking a longer route along the roman road. We all regrouped in Malham village. Time for another refreshment stop at Airton Farm Shop Tea Rooms before the long trek home via Cracoe, Burnsall, Bolton Abbey, and Ilkley. At Askwith, 4 of the group opted for the route via Fewston, the remainder carried on via Otley, Leathley, Almscliffe Crag, arriving back at Beckwithshaw at 6pm. Congratulations to all 20 who completed the 80 mile round trip (14 at touring pace, and 6 at a faster pace). That's a total of 1600 Wheel Easy miles completed for the Captains Log! You all climbed 4,500' and crossed 8 uphill chevrons. What an achievement for the club to have 10% of our members complete this challenge!

Fast Group Report
 The faster group had left Beckwithshaw so I was faced with a solo effort against the wind to try to catch up. Eventually I joined the group as they turned onto Duck Street. We had a welcome stop in Grassington - amazingly hot drinks were essential to keep warm although the subsequent hilly route to Malham also helped to keep us warm. We timed our second cafe stop at Cracoe pretty well as the weather began to improve when we re-mounted our bikes. An absolutely brilliant ride with the some of the best scenery possible and quiet roads. I covered 88 miles fom home so the 6 of us covered at least 528 miles. Phil

2010 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 2200 YTD 78195



