

Sunday, August 1, 2010

Wheel Easy Ride Report 223



Short/Beginners

Ride

Considering it's now the start of the holiday season, there were a couple of new faces today, Alun and John making a total of 11 opting for the short ride, so a nice round dozen with the leader! Apart from the leader's chain slipping off and Lynda N's water bottle bracket coming loose even before we left Hornbeam, we set off at a nice steady pace, cycling along Rayleigh Road and up towards St. George's Cricket Ground, through the estate, taking in the quiet cycle paths and onto Beckwith Knowle. Cutting through Greengate pointing out "The Hub" for any cyclists needing refreshment but only open Monday to Friday and out the other end onto Cardale Park. Back on route to Burn Bridge, this was the point of no return as from here we headed off on to the Leeds bound A61 but turning off on to the track towards Kirkby Overblow. We reached Kirkby Overblow in good time where some of the ladies were making a very difficult decision as to whether to extend the ride into Knaresborough for a cuppa and of course catch up on the weekly gossip! Everyone headed for Rudding Golf Club. Darren kindly picked up the pace and sped off towards the deadly lights at the bottom of the hill so that they were green for the rest of the group, thanks Darren! At Crimble Lane we all went our separate ways, some along the new path through the Showground, some on to Knaresborough and the rest via Morrison's. Sue T

Click on slide show for all today's photos

Prospecting

for

Poddlers'

Rides

Caroline and I both had family commitments and couldn't reach the "Beam" in time for the 9.30 whistle. Being of an adventurous temperament, Caroline suggested a bit of route-finding for future Poddlers' jaunts. She had spotted a path to Collingham leading from the A1 just south of Wetherby. Thus it was, we hurtled (some would say chortled) via Pannal and the Spofforth cycle path to Wetherby and thence to the roundabout leading to the A1 south. Still on the cycle path, we turned left after about 300 yards and sharp right down a dirt track which forked and then carried on to Bramham OR, as a footpath, to Collingham. We chose the latter in high hopes of its becoming a

cycle path! It didn't but nothing daunted, we adjusted our pensioners' shorts and straddled a style, lifted our bikes, mounted a considerable number of steps, crossed a footbridge over the A1, descended an equal number of steps and wobbled for a very short distance along a thorny path to a gap in the hedge. This led to a surfaced crossing and then to a green field path! Nothing venture, nothing gain - off we went along the several green paths bordering fields of ripening barley interspersed with meadow delights such as poppies, meadowsweet and cow parsley. Walking and cycling where possible, we entered what appeared to be a series of paddocks containing loose boxes and a very pleasant lady who asked that we dismount and showed us the route to Collingham. This meant a left and then right turn passing an idyllic area of ponds, grazing horses and several 4x4's! We dropped on to the A659 and turned left to Collingham and right to Linton. In Linton a Trip Lane on the left led us to Sicklinghall and thence to Kirkby Overblow, Rudding Lane and Woodlands Corner where we parted company having had an adventure unrivalled by anything Enid Blyton ever produced. 30 miles. ... and, by the way four new routes for the price of one!!! Sue Downes

Medium Ride Steady Pace Report
 Today's ride was preceded by lots of warnings about the dangers of sections of the route. This was mainly to calm the nerves of the ride leaders dealing with the A61, Harewood Bridge etc. Clearly my warnings didn't put anyone off as 36 people opted for the ride! and there were ten women in my group of thirteen! The verdict was unanimous when we all met up at The Gourmet Café in Wetherby that it was a good route, a refreshing change of direction and new to many. Our route took us through Kirkby Overblow to the Leeds Road where we were in the company of the Leeds Triathlon, so there were plenty of cyclists out today. The hill to Weardley was testing but everyone made it and the siting of the bench at the top was a stroke of genius by the St Christopher's Cycling Club (now defunct) who donated it. The run to Eccup via Village Road is quiet save for walkers and cyclists and we crossed the A61 to Manor House Drive where we saw the triathletes padding round the school fields. The road through East Keswick had recently been re-laid with a wonderfully smooth surface, we hope that the rest of the route is treated as well. We arrived in Wetherby just as the fast boys and Debs were preparing to leave and met Malcolm's touring pace group who had occupied a big table upstairs. The café has been redecorated, they provide good food, excellent portions and good service. We returned via Spofforth along the Harland Way, Follifoot and Rudding Lane in sunny conditions quite contrary to the forecast. 30 miles x 13 riders. Gia

Medium Medium Ride Report
 Eleven started in the Medium Medium or Fractionally Faster or group. With Crawford advising that he would only be going as far as Kirkby O, we were soon down to 10, or more often 9 behind Big John some way ahead with American Will joining him from time to time and stopping at junctions for the rest of us to catch up. This is not my favourite route, with too many busy sections, but good as an occasional variation from our ventures along the other points of the compass. And there are plenty of compensations, usually including sightings of red kites, though Peter B, our resident ornithologist, assured us that today's kite was actually a buzzard. Like Gia's group, we too took a rest and photo at the St Christopher's seat, disturbing a couple of very agreeable pensioners out on their bikes for a shorter ride, and then enjoyed the fine ride along Village Road, over the dam at Eccup to Alwoodley. There was a brief shower at East Keswick, but after that the clouds dispersed as we headed into Wetherby and found the Pluses polishing off the last croissants at the Gourmet Café. Fortunately, there was plenty still left to choose from. John carried on to fulfil other duties, and after the break Peter and Alison, together with Ted, continued along the railway path to Spofforth leaving six of us to return on the scenic route through Sicklinghall and Kirkby O. A fine ride, around 30-33 miles depending on the route back. Malcolm

Medium Plus Ride Report

On a bright morning, 12 riders elected to join the faster paced medium ride. Having just made my way across from Leeds on the Eccup and Weardley part of the route, Gia decided that I would be the ride leader for this ride! I suppose I had to lead a ride at some point and as it was back to my neck of the woods, it was ideal. The ride took us through Burn Bridge and on to the main Harrogate Road for a short distance until we turned off and up the hill towards Kirkby Overblow. From here it was all down hill and the boy (and girl) racers were in their element, speedily making their way down to meet with the main Harrogate Road again. We re-grouped and made our way cautiously over Harewood Bridge and on to the Pool Road (it's a pity that this junction has to be crossed but unfortunately, it is unavoidable without a large detour). Then it was on to Eccup Village via the deceptively steep hills through Weardley and beyond. We stopped at Eccup reservoir for the obligatory photo shoot then across Harrogate road once again and on towards Bardsey - a slight detour, but it was another chance to speed down another fast hill with the benefit of a ford at the bottom to cool us down! Speedily on towards East Keswick we went, with another fast downhill to come - yippee! Back on to the main road and on towards Linton, it was here it seemed that all the inconsiderate drivers had congregated (what is it with drivers in expensive cars and personalised number plates?). We then arrived at the Gourmet Cafe in Wetherby for a well deserved rest and refuel. We stayed long enough for the medium and slower paced groups to arrive and then made our way through North Rigton, Spofforth and Follifoot. This is where I said my goodbyes to the group as once again I had to make my way home via the Pool Road at Harewood and the hills at Weardley . Twice up and once down in a day is maybe a bit too much - please don't change the route at the last minute again Gia!

For the records - 11 riders x 34 miles + 1 x 53 miles. Glyn

Long Ride Report

Roll up, roll up for the mystery tour. The magical mystery tour should have taken us to Aysgarth but.....

11 brave souls volunteered for a ride described as a brisk 85 miler to Aysgarth and all was going well until we reached Grewelthorpe. The plan was to turn left before Masham, head to Swinton then onto Ellingstring and Jervaulx for lunch. Things went awry when 4 riders missed the turn and were eventually tracked down to a roadside in Masham. I can't quite remember my comments but they were something along the lines of, "which hare brained ass has the route directions - do they mention Masham!" These words were to come back to haunt me when about an hour later we came back into Masham having done a tortuous tour of the extremely steep hills around Swinton Park courtesy of the ride leader's reluctance to refer to the route directions. Oh well anyone can make a mistake.

We carried on to Jervaulx along the main road for the scheduled but late lunch stop. Peter and Alec left at this point while the rest of us decided to shorten the route and head to Wensley instead of Aysgarth. This part of the journey passed off without incident and we were successfully heading towards Well but unfortunately missed a turning and took another detour before getting back on the correct road. Oh well anyone can make 2 mistakes.

After this everything went swimmingly (and that is not a reference to Simon's dip in a ford on our first detour) and we somehow ended up at Spa Gardens cafe in Ripon. This was one of the few occasions when we were on the intended route so, to celebrate, we took a photo. Despite the problems it was a fun ride 9 people covered 87 miles and 2 about 60. Total 903 miles.

Manchester Skyride

A brief review of today's Sky Ride in Manchester. The Skyrides (as in Sky sports) are a series of rides encouraging either families or lapsed cyclists to get out on their bikes. They run on closed roads. Riding down Deansgate (the wrong way) with no traffic was a truly unique experience. Although the clouds did at times look threatening the rain held off until I had completed the ride and got back to the car. The two "ends" of the ride were at Sportcity - home of Manchester City Football Club and Castlefield in the city centre. Although the ride was only 12km each way (about 7.5 miles) the round trip took me about 1.5 hours. This was due to the huge number of

people and especially young children whose cycling is a little erratic! At both end of the ride there was entertainment and at Castlefield there was even a beach!! A brief report on the ride is available on the BBC website [here](#) There is another Skyride in Bradford on Sunday 29th August. Mervyn Ashford

2010	Wheel	Easy	Miles	(approx)	Today	2298	YTD	89464
------	-------	------	-------	----------	-------	------	-----	-------

