

Sunday, September 19, 2010

Wheel Easy Ride Report 230



Short

Ride

Report

By the time of the Minor Disaster, we had 10 quality miles in the can, we being new John Q and I who were keeping the banner of the Short Ride flying on a rather wet and miserable autumn morning. John is a new returnee to cycling after a break of several decades, but has maintained his fitness as a runner and this showed as he easily kept pace with me up Ridding Lane, and later up the hill out of Follifoot towards Knaresborough. We did a short detour to enable us to enjoy the serenity of Abbey Road, stopping occasionally a) so that I could chat to a group of mountain bikers and try to recruit them to Wheel Easy (4 minutes), b) buzz the bell of a resident who was clearly in the middle of having a most attractive array of photovoltaic panels fixed to his roof and get the details of the supplier (8 minutes) and c) say hi to former neighbours out on a stroll who had downsized into Harrogate several years before we did (2 minutes) and who turned out to have just been talking approvingly about something my father did many years ago (at least another 5 minutes).

Finally we made it to Riverside Café and locked our bikes as responsible cyclists do. This was the Minor Disaster. No key. (Me, not John.) We settled to lattes and crumpets etc while giving the situation some serious thought. John tried to phone home for train time information, but the fates seemed to be conspiring against us and the phone battery was flat. Well, you know that feeling you get when you are playing a tight chess match and it looks as though the other guy has just got you by the short and curlies and suddenly you see how to sacrifice your queen and force check mate? No? Neither do I, but it must be something like I felt when I stumbled on the solution. Borrow (if necessary steal, but preferably borrow) another bike, ride it home, make sure John is back on a familiar route to home, get the padlock key, return borrowed bike to Knaresborough, and then pedal back home with a bonus 10 miles on the clock. So that's what I did. Thank you to the young lady working at the Marigold Café who lent me her bike. Malcolm

Click on slide show for all today's photos

Medium

Ride

Report

I woke up this morning to the sound of rain beating against my bedroom window, but I convinced myself that I had to get out of bed because I have a ride to lead and there will be lots of enthusiastic riders waiting at Hornbeam Park and raring to go and get wet. When I arrived at Hornbeam I was pleasantly surprised by the amount of riders that had braved the elements to go out and ride. The announcements were made as to who was going where and I took up my designated position and waited for volunteers. There were 10 of us and after a short chat as I handed out our route then off we went, all was going well until the top of Farnham hill and all the ladies started removing items of clothing but that seems to be a regular occurrence on the rides I go on now so I just accept it. Off we went again and the sky was starting to brighten a little and the rain had all but stopped, I was pleasantly surprised by the pace this morning every one seemed to be really riding quickly particularly Linda who at times I struggled to keep up with. For some unknown reason the ride leader wanted to go straight on in Bishop Monkton but I was soon called back into line by Caroline. When we got to Boroughbridge Caroline, Dennis and Howard decided to make their way back and the rest of us went to the Laden Table despite Joe saying he found it a little shi shi plus he had been told that they didn't sell bacon sandwiches which was maybe the real reason he was not so keen. We all had toasted fruit bread and it was very nice. Hunger and caffeine fix's sorted off we went again towards Aldborough. Geraldine and I were at the front of the group at this time and due to the pace together with the fact we were talking about bike shops we missed the right turn and got to Lower Dunsforth before I realized we had gone slightly wrong. We were soon heading in the right direction again although we did deviate slightly as we chose to go Ferrensby, Farnham just so we could all sprint up Harrogate hill to finish off what had been a very good ride especially considering the weather conditions. It was a pleasure to be able to lead the group that did the medium ride today, good company and a good ride. Terry 3 riders 30 miles

7 riders 36 miles

Medium

Plus

Fast

Report

This report has been written by Dave P on behalf of Richard who asked said DP if he had a camera with him, yes said the naive DP, right said Richard you had better write the report, bang, DP never saw that coming. Never mind, as we assembled into our ride groups (in the drizzle) DP noted with some trepidation the youth and obvious fitness of most of the riders, Bill W and DP playing on free transfer from the EG`s. The pace was (by EG standards) fast and furious on the way out to Bishop Monkton, however BW and DP thought they were doing alright being at the front for most of the time, but when the cafe hove into view they suddenly found themselves at the back. The pace paid off because we made into the cafe before Otley Cycling Club (and Malcolm Yates). The bacon and egg, scrambled egg and toasted teacakes had been cleared before Gia entered the cafe to admonish Richard and give him a hundred lines " I must not miss out Burton Leonard". After a 40 minutes + stop, we were on our way south to Great Ouseburn. Near Thorpe Underwood a few of us stopped to admire some Llamas, or were they Alpacas? or Camels without a hump? or just big Sheep?. Mark who had gone on came back to express his concern about our motives in admiring the Llamas. So as we were short of cyclists photos you now have one of a Llama. Then it was on to Cattal and Cowthorpe, the pace was now getting to DP`s legs as he hung on the Bills rear wheel, any minute expecting Anne Robinson to appear from behind a hedge and say you are the weakest link " goodbye". At North Deighton Glyn left us to cycle back to Leeds. The remaining riders Richard, Mark, Michael, Steve, Bill, and Dave P headed for Spofforth and Harrogate in the drizzle, but no matter the wind was kind to us, and thanks to Richard. Mileages very approx. 6 x 44 = 264 miles. Glyn = 80 miles and this is a guess, but well done Glyn. Dave P

Medium

Plus

Touring

Report

Seven of us set off from Hornbeam to Boroughbridge via Knaresborough, Farnham, Burton Leonard, Bishop Monkton and Roecliffe. We have cycled to Bishop Monkton numerous times but

this was the first time most of us had been through the lovely village of Burton Leonard. If it had not been for Martin and Yvonne we would have missed it! Actually we could have all missed it as a motorist going too fast nearly caused a serious accident. To make matters worse he did an emergency stop and reversed and then had a 'conversation' with our most experienced cyclist before taking off again! Just before Boroughbridge we were all pleased to see Darren join us. He had his panniers full from his weekly shop at Morrisons, surely that would prevent him from doing 'Wheelines' and riding on the wrong side of the road! We arrived at the Laden Table wet through and looking forward to our refreshments. From Boroughbridge we returned via Aldborough, Lower Dunsforth, and Upper Dunsforth, Gt Ouseburn, Thorpe Underwood, Whixley, Cattal, Cowthorpe, Spofforth and Follifoot. It was another great morning in excellent company. 44 miles. Paul

Long Ride Report
 There seemed to be a good turn out at Hornbeam Park in spite of the rain and a forecast for it to continue for much of the day. There were five of us for the long ride, Phil, Ed, Charles, Dan & myself. We headed out at a steady pace via Knaresborough, Boroughbridge, Sessay, Dalton & Bagby before reaching the hilly section of the ride just before Kilburn. We stopped at the cafe in Kilburn before heading on to Coxwold. In spite of the fairly continuous rain all agreed to do the full route rather than cut it short so we did a loop past Byland Abbey & through Ampleforth followed by a steady climb up to Yearsley. Then it was down to Easingwold & back to Harrogate via Aldwark Bridge, Great Ouseburn, Arkendale & Knaresborough ?68 miles. Jill

2010	Wheel	Easy	Miles	(approx)	Today	1364	YTD	113030
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