

Sunday, October 3, 2010

Wheel Easy Ride Report 232



Short Ride Report
So, true to the published weather reports, we all awoke to rain, rain and more rain. Some of us turned over and went back to sleep, some of us attempted the journey to Hornbeam, where sense prevailed, and some (14, to be precise), turned up - some in shorts - to huddle under a dripping tree, whilst discussion took place as to where we should all cycle! Jon's suggestion of a cycle around the car park to save face was ignored. Wheel Easy's finest! And so we set off into the wet lands! To Knaresborough and along Abbey Road and then to Chain Lane and yes! It had to be - a right turn down WATER LANE, to observe the ducks on the reservoir looking more wet and fed up than we were! An aquaplane around Farnham, and around the outlying villages of Knaresborough to arrive back to civilisation and a caffeine stop for those in need. (5, in total - others preferred to set 'sail' home to dry off). Well done to all! Total riders - 14 Total mileage - 17 gallons - sorry! miles 238 miles! Sarah

Click on slide show for all today's photos

THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN RIDE SERIES
Ripon and Jervaulx Rides
"The Titanic sunk in less rain than this" was the quip from Brian as we headed back south from Masham in the most intense rain. That just about sets the tone for the day. Six riders set off from Harrogate for an early start, keeping their spirits up by trying to think of every song about rain. And at the Ripon Sun Parlour Café, despite the most appalling rain and forecast there were a total of 20 riders prepared to undertake the rides. There was understandably a little reluctance to leave the warmth and coffee of the café but we all set off into the heavy rain. With two rides on offer it was clear that many would make a decision between 100k and 50k at the first Masham stop. Climbing up to Galphay and Grewelthorpe it seemed as if we were heading for the clouds and the

rivers of rain poured down the hills. Pedalling upstream was certainly different. At Masham several hardy souls continued to Jervaulx and presumably completed the 100k. Also Charlie and Denise, CTC guests, said they were determined to do the 50k so they were doing a bit more.

But we weren't there to see it, as a large group of us turned tail and headed south, homeward bound. Dave's comment when asked what he wanted to do was that he "would go with the flow" - how apt! With shoes full to overflowing and the rain penetrating every item of clothing, hot showers, mugs of tea and afternoon films on TV the settee at home was very enticing. Martin W

Magnificent Seven Report from those that completed the 100k and more.... Phil Stell, Peter Bradley, Steve and myself set off from Ripon intending to do the full 100km - and all having cycled from Harrogate. At Masham, Peter decided he could no longer convince himself he was enjoying the experience and made his way to the cafe to meet up with any others there. The remaining three of us carried on. We also kept meeting up with Chris and Sandy Delph from Skelton-on-Ure (CTC Guests) doing the 100km ride. We arrived at Jervaulx before the Tea Rooms opened, so continued on our way, and added in a couple of small scenic detours due to map reading errors (anything to get a few extra miles in!). We diverted off route near Snape to go to the cafe at Thorpe Perrow Arboretum, where we met up with the Chris and Sandy again. They decided to make their way straight home to Skelton (so I guess they completed 80-90km). The rain was now even heavier and bouncing several inches off the paths outside the cafe. After refuelling with soup and a roll (OK, so I also had a very nice apple cake), we set off again after apologising for the pools of water on the floor and seats where we'd been sitting. We now entered the flood zone; it seemed we hit a flood every mile or so, many right across the road and well over a hundred yards long. Some were so deep that your feet and ankles were under water as you pedalled. At Boroughbridge, Steve decided his eye's had suffered enough direct hits from rain drops so he would make his way home without returning to Ripon, nevertheless he would have covered 80 miles in total. Phil and I continued along the route to Ripon, and arrived back at Spa Gardens Cafe at 3.45 only to find it closed. We paused a while to eat an energy bar - and suddenly the rain stopped. On our way back to Harrogate via Bishop Monkton and Knaresborough, I decided to extend my route to North Deighton, Spofforth, Follifoot and Pannal to top the magic century: 101 miles in all! Phil didn't join me, so he completed 90 miles. The ride by Steve, Phil and myself was a true epic. The floods were greater than we had previously experienced, so it will be remembered for a very long time as one of the great rides - and done at an average of 14mph. Eric W

2010	Wheel	Easy	Miles	(approx)	Today	1268	YTD	116580
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