

Sunday, November 28, 2010

Wheel Easy Ride Report 240



DUE TO SNOW, LED RIDES WERE CANCELLED. MEMBERS MET TO EITHER CYCLE OR WALK TOGETHER. BUT RIDES WERE NOT 'WHEEL EASY LED'

In November 2009 our winter started early, and if this week is anything to go by we are again in for a few walks as opposed to rides this coming winter. It did not deter a hardy few, however, and setting off from Hornbeam were two cycle rides with a total of nine riders. For the less adventurous there were two walks with eight walkers in total, and more joining en route. Martin

Off Road Ride Report
The first snow and sub-zero temperatures of the winter heralded "snow biking" time once again! Although there were 9 cyclists at Hornbeam this morning, 7 were on road bikes, so it was just Paul T and myself on mountain bikes looking forward to crunching through the snow. Our route was through Crimple Valley, across Wetherby Road to join Hookstone Chase near Morrisons, along Forest Moor Road, then off-road again through the woods and the Lido Caravan Park, to Goldsborough, stopping for photographs as we crossed the River Nidd at Goldsborough Mill. The thermometer was rising slowly, from -4C and later for a few short minutes reached a balmy +1C before turning negative again. But the sunshine, clear blue skies, clear air, great views, and crunchy snow and ice under the tyres made it a magical experience. It always amazes me how much grip mountain bike tyres provide in these snowy conditions, so it really is a pleasure and nowhere near as difficult as people imagine. If the snow continues, as predicted, hopefully more WE members will be joining us on future rides. After Knaresborough we came back to Harrogate via the Beryl Burton Way, and continued to the Magnesium Well Cafe in Valley Gardens for a coffee stop, arriving just ahead of the long walking group. Our ride was 20 miles, so 40 miles in total. Eric

Road Ride Report
Seventeen Wheel Easy member gathered at Hornbeam Car Park in bright sunshine, under a blue sky with a chill in the air to make the day somewhat bracing. This made the day ideal for most

outdoor activities, except for say nude sunbathing. Dennis chose a solo tour of Knaresborough, Scriven and home. Working on some local knowledge from Darren, who advised that the roads were not too good around Boroughbridge, the suggestion from Phil was that we should head for Ripon and the Spa Gardens Cafe via the main road ie the A61. This proved to be an excellent suggestion as the road proved to be dry and clear of snow and ice as Darren, Dave P, Paul, Peter J, and Phil headed for Ripon with the sun on our backs and very little traffic.

We arrived at the cafe in just under the hour, where Caroline doubted our sanity in riding in such cold weather.

After caffeine and cake and hats and gloves warmed on a radiator, it was back to Harrogate by the same route arriving even more under the hour. Whilst the route could not be described as scenic, it opened the lungs and got the blood flowing, especially for one of the older riders, who was grateful to the "A" team riders for the fast but considerate pace they maintained. Mileage say 5 x approx 28 miles = 140 miles
Dave P

Click on slide show for all today's photos

Short Walk Report

What a glorious morning just right for a quick cycle, only one small problem the road from our house was like a skating rink and needed ice picks and crampons to get onto the nearest main road, which had been gritted. So bearing this in mind and with the knowledge that the decree had gone out that there were to be no led rides we managed to slide our way to Hornbeam on foot, where to my amazement there were some cyclists raring to go. There were walkers also raring to walk, and soon about ten of us were marching up Hookstone to meet walking stragglers, four of us left Martin's group, who were intending doing a brisk walk to Almscliffe and Skipton and all points hilly, to meet Sue and George on our way to the Pinewoods. Skating towards the Rossett path we became six and it was a short time before we were Ashville, All Saints Church and heading towards Harlow Carr, where Max made an escape, possibly for tea and scones in Betty's but more probably for a comfort break in the very delightful toilets at RHS entrance area. The walk passed extremely quickly as we admired the sun drenched, snow covered landscape and discussion ranged from beekeeping and bee breeding, boots with winter studs that you could make just pop out and the Bradford Ripper, diesel cars to police efficiency. Crampons and ice picks were needed again to negotiate the slight rise onto Panorama view walk along the edge of the Pinewoods and down to the café in the valley gardens, the views continuing to be stunning and also revealing, as Skipton Lynda had informed us, that there was only a dusting of snow towards Skipton (Thankfully Martin and the others would not get stuck in a snow drift if they ventured that far.) Six of us headed into the Valley Gardens café and sample a decent coffee, a good hot chocolate and a variety of sweet things. I can report with some authority that the Yorkshire Curd Tart was good, moist with lots of curd and good flavour, with a slightly but only slightly leathery underneath pastry. They get full marks for giving me a chocolate flake with my black coffee, however!!! Having put the world to rights, Sur John left and we started to walk back towards the West Park Stray, meeting Gia and Malcolm who had obviously had a lie in, and a long breakfast. Standing in the magnificent reflected sunlight (not of Malcolm and Gia, but the actual sun on snow) we could almost have been in a winter sports holiday advert. However we all had people to see places to go and more things to do we continued on our way, hoping Martin and his followers had not got lost up a mountain somewhere to the north of Ilkley. We left Lynda in the capable hands of Sue and George who assured me that they would escort her back to Hornbeam. 4 miles at a speed of 2 miles per hour, with 6 people. CG

Long Walk Report

The longer walk was cold and sharp, almost Alpine weather, as we set off and we were soon in the open country following the Ringway footpath down to Pannal. The mill pond was frozen solid

as we passed heading out to towards North Rigton, but turning north to Daw Cross soon after climbing the hill out of Burn Bridge. We made our way along footpaths to join Green Lane, walking past Ashville school and then across Otley Road at Harlow Hill. The spur to progress from this point was the café in the Valley Gardens where as usual a good social gathering ensued when we met up with Malcolm and Gia who had also walked, and Paul and Eric at the end of their mountain bike ride.

A lovely day but not a cycling one for most of us. Enjoyable but not too much of it please - we need to get the pedals turning! Martin W

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| 2010 | Wheel | Easy | Miles | (approx) | Today | 180 | YTD | 139986 |
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