

Sunday, December 12, 2010

Wheel Easy Ride Report 242



DUE TO ICE, LED RIDES WERE CANCELLED. HOWEVER, THIS DID NOT STOP MEMBERS MEETING TO CYCLE TOGETHER.

Dennis and Caroline's Ride Report
Brilliant, the thermometer in the garden says 2.7 degrees Celsius. Not so brilliant, the road outside the house is black ice. Brilliant, there is a blue sky and no wind, not so brilliant Gia is not leading a ride. Brilliant, get to Hornbeam without falling off, not so brilliant, Martin is in his car in non high vis gear. Brilliant, there are hundreds of Wheel Easy ladies and gentlemen raring to go somewhere. Not so brilliant, no one knows where to go in a rudderless leaderless fashion. Brilliant, El Butler has a plan, he has been out early this morning and cleared ice, snow and anything else slippery from the perfect route. WE are ready to go, not so brilliant, 150 people want once more to follow in the wheels of El Butler. (And of course, as everyone knows only the chosen few are allowed to do that.) So we split into groups and set off and some slinky people on slinky bikes flashed past the main most important groups, barely noticing our presence on the road..... going somewhere, a long way off, up some very steep slopes, very quickly and very daringly. Before we left Harrogate, an idiot at the Woodlands corner traffic lights tried to eliminate half the team, by turning left as they, the cyclists continued straight on towards Morrisons, when the lights changed. An action replay of an incident 3 weeks ago in the same spot. We carefully managed to reach Knaresborough via Forest something and the main Harrogate to Knaresborough Road and continued free from slippage through the town, on the Boroughbridge Road. At an extremely cautious pace we reached Lingerfield, over some slightly icy stretches and turned left into Scotton and onto the turn off to Brearton, by which time Sarah and John had nearly united Terry and his new top, and Mary had deflated her tyre. Paul brought the message to the waiting throng, that four kind people were mending Mary's puncture and Sarah and John knew what they were doing and where we were going. The loop via Brearton's environs for a bit of marauding and pillage in Nidd was a bit glassy, but not as bad as the thorn strewn section onto the Ripon Road (how many punctures next week) or as scary (for Malcolm) as the main Ripon Road and its traffic. Satisfied and smug, most of us, however, reached Ripley and gathered to plan more pillage and marauding,

a cup of coffee and a cake or two. Paul T and Terry led a cafe invasion with a very unsavoury group of cyclists, obviously up to no good, and the more sedate members of the group headed homewards for early baths and cocoa. A brilliant and inspired ride instigated by the brilliant and inspired El Butler, thank you it was a joy to get off my feet and back onto a bike. 19 people a few miles I have no idea how many as I forgot to switch on my mile measuring thing, I guess about 18 miles ish. Caroline G

Dave's Ride Report
There was a fair number of Wheel Easy cyclists in Hornbeam Car Park considering how bad the weather had been. However the day and the forecast looked reasonably promising, but as there was to be no officially led rides. it was a case of take your partners for the next dance/ride. This meant a quick assessment of people and their needs/wants, ie miles, speed, route and fitness. In between the bids and bartering Malcolm M managed to take a group photo. A mediumish ride to Wetherby and then North to Boroughbridge via the A168 was suggested, and four riders set off for Knaresborough and Low Bridge shortly to be caught up by four more riders. It was decided to ride (carefully) on Abbey Road, this was icy, but with care and slow speeds rideable, anyway nobody came off. Dave W was met riding towards us and pointed out some tricky stretches ahead, before joining us for the ride to Wetherby. So we had nine riders, Bill, Darryl, Dave P, Dave W, Dennis, Neil, Nick, Peter L and Peter J heading for Wetherby via Little Ribston and Kirk Deighton, passing a group of 20 odd York cyclists coming towards Knaresborough. Peter L riding the length of the peloton conducted a straw poll on whether we should have a coffee stop in the flesh pots of Wetherby, the result was a negative, so it was North into a headwind up the A168 with some sun on our backs. On this occasion the cycle path was not used, the road being in excellent condition. Eight riders made it to the top café in Boroughbridge, Darrell having made his own way back after taking a phone call. We were soon joined by a group from Leeds, and then Norman and Barry, in fact every seat in the café was taken by cyclists. It was then decided to take the quick route back to Harrogate via Staveley and Farnham, and it was sunny. Max mileage approx 38 miles, car park to car park approx 34 miles so say 9 x 36 miles = 324 miles. Dave P

Good Self's Report
Well an intrepid six (Mad Dog Darren, Will.I.Am, Steve, Alison plus hubby and one good self) set off from Hornbeam on a wing and a prayer, towards the Bridge of Boro, the main road via Knaresborough being the main option and despite fears of black ice, the road to The Boro was fine. The intended cafe stop (The Laden Table) was closed, such was our speed in getting there, so refuge was taken in the only café open at such an early time. Darren's idea of going on to Morecambe from there was quickly dismissed, with a much more sensible idea to go onto Ripon via Bishop Monkton etc. The sun came out, the roads were fine and a cracking pace ensued (according to William's computer an average speed of 18 miles an hour, and for me, it felt like every one of those!) with the cobwebs well and truly blown off as we all went our separate ways after the final challenge of the hill out of Knaresborough into Harrogate. Approx 30 swift miles, really enjoyable, and safe ride. Mark

Malcolm Y's Ride Report
After the excitement of snow biking for the last 2 weeks, it was back to the mundane 'business as usual' road bikes, and big distances. I was well trussed up against the elements, as the temperature never rose above 4 degrees - but with hindsight I could have left a layer or two behind as I was more suitably dressed for the sub-zero temperatures of the previous 2 weeks. 6 of us went on the long ride. With no official ride leader or route, we quickly hatched a plan, which involved Tadcaster. Sounded like a 30-35 mile ride to me, but with Malcolm Y acting as leader, there was little chance of that! Our route took us through Kirkby Overblow to Linton and Collingham, and then country lanes to Bramham and Tadcaster, where Tykes Tea Rooms provided us with copious amounts of tea, plus scrambled eggs on toast, etc. We then carried on south east

to Bolton Percy before turning north to Copmanthorpe on the outskirts of York, before heading for home via Long Marston and Hunsingore - or so I thought!. Just when Harrogate was only 9 miles away, and thoughts of arriving home shortly after 2pm seemed an inviting prospect, Malcolm headed north along the A168 to Arkendale, with 5 of us in his wake. We seemed to be on our way home yet again, have passed through Ferrensby, when we took another detour through Scotton and Nidd to Ripley, well, four of us did, Phil and Charles opted for the more direct route down Sandy Bank to Knaresborough and home. Meanwhile the remaining four of were visited by the puncture fairy with a vengeance. John and Glyn both punctured simultaneously, and the journey home through Killinghall and Harrogate was then slowed down by frequent stops to pump up tyres. Finally arrived home at 3.30pm, having covered 64 miles. For the captains log, 6 riders averaged 60 miles, so 360 miles covered today. Eric

2010 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 1206 YTD 141829



