

Sunday, December 19, 2010

Wheel Easy Ride Report 243



Wheel Easy held another very successful Xmas Lunch at the Hockey Club on Sunday. Over 70 members, partners and family members enjoyed a hearty lunch, including waistline threatening desserts and cheese, followed by Martin's fiendish quiz. Congratulations to the winning team who I think were called Bright Sparks! Martin was MC for the day adding to the nice and easy atmosphere.

Well done to those who despite the weather braved the elements for a walk or a ride and many thanks to all the helpers, cooks and shoppers for the day. Happy New Year to you all and as Martin said we should thinking about our Wheel Easy 5th anniversary celebrations which will be on Sunday May 8th 2011. Any ideas??? We would like to do something that included all rides. Gia

Phil's Ride Report

The dilemma of whether to cycle on road or off road was decided by not really making a decision and doing a 50:50 ride using off road bikes. 4 of us cycled on road to Clint via Knox and Hampsthwaite. At Clint we started the off road stretch to Ripley, South Stainley and Farnham and then on road to Knaresborough for a coffee stop before returning to Harrogate up the Beryl Burton. It was a great day, bright clear skies, a really hard icy surface and surprisingly good grip from the knobbly tyres. About 25 miles so another 100 to the annual total. Phil

Steve's Ride Report

Four roadies set off on the same route as last week but in reverse. So off to Ripon via Knaresborough, Farnham and Stavelly. Knowing that the Spa Gardens Cafe was shut we progressed quickly through Skelton and on to Boroughbridge. After picking fault with last weeks opening times we were allowed to consume a variety of sugar laden treats. Mark, Darren and Paul with door stop toast smeared with cinnamon and me with porridge laced with syrup. A quick cycling fashion parade for the locals and back home the Minskip and Stavelly route. 4 x 32 miles at an average of 15.2. Temperature off the scale! Steve

Eric's Off-Road Ride Report

Several hardy souls braved the sub-zero temperatures to arrive on their bikes at Hornbeam Park, 6 on mountain bikes, and some others on road bikes. Phil was keen to lead an off-road ride around Hampsthwaite and Ripley, and so four set off in that direction. Liz T - a new member who joined last month - was so taken by the conditions on Saturday (pristine white snow from an overnight fall, clear blue skies, glorious sunshine, clear crisp air and sub-zero temperatures) that she went out and bought a mountain bike. So LIZ arrived on Sunday morning with brand new bike, eager to go off-riding for the first time. Rather than Phil's longer route, I took Liz on the shorter circuit of Crimple Valley, Calcutt, Goldsborough, Hay-a-Park and Knaresborough. As soon as we got outside Harrogate, the fields and bridle were clear of snow - how disappointing was that? So sadly we can't call this a snow biking ride. We stopped on Riverside for a coffee break, where Phil's ride joined us 10 minutes later. Interestingly the River Nidd was frozen over, as it did in January. Prior to 2010 the last time it froze was 1977. We returned to Harrogate by the Beryl Burton Cycleway arriving home at 1.30pm. At different points of the circuit we met various Wheel Easy members on foot: Steve W, Geoff M, John W, and later Crawford and Dennis with wives on their way to the Hockey Club. Well done to Liz for her great 'Wheel Easy spirit, and thoroughly enjoying the wonderful conditions including the temperature of -2C. Liz would like other ladies to come out for some off-road rides too, I fully support her view - C'mon ladies, on yer bikes! Note for the captain's log: 2 of us covered 20 miles; 40 mile total. Eric

2010 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 268 YTD 143065

