

Wednesday, December 29, 2010

Wednesday Rides



Poddlers

Ride

Report

Five poddlers left Hornbeam at 9.32 then two others realised that they did not want to do a fast ride and caught us up. This included my other half which I think makes a 1st - that we have been on a WE ride together. They did not take long to catch up as by Woodlands it was obvious that something was seriously wrong with Caroline's bike so she had to go and visit Spa Cycles. So six poddlers set off again down Forest Lane and then on to the main Knaresborough road towards Farnham so as to avoid icy byways. A revolt had to be put down when it was suggested that Scriven would be an idea, obviously someone thought it would be good fun to negotiate said icy byways! It was also assumed that I would be leading but the hills going to Arkendale meant I was soon at the back so the professionals could take over. (We would soon have got lost anyway!) The A1(M) was crossed and then the men sped ahead through Marton cum Grafton and on towards Aldborough. There was a very icy junction but fortunately no mishaps and soon we were in the warmth of the cyclists cafe in Boroughbridge. We were delighted to see Caroline who had been given a speedy (and free) repair and had come a more direct way to Boroughbridge. So seven once more, we left Boroughbridge towards Minskip and then on through Staveley and back to Farnham (we may have gone somewhere in between but I was chatting to Caroline and did not notice where we were going!) We were very honoured to have had Big John's company all the way back to Farnham but then he felt obliged to do his duty and speed on ahead! Sarah also sped off at Knaresborough hill leaving five poddlers to take a more sedate ride back to the Stray where we all dispersed to our various homes in time for a 1pm lunch. 26 miles with only 2 less for Caroline - where did she go on the way to Boroughbridge? The mist stayed with us all morning but the drizzle on the way to Hornbeam stopped as we set off and it remained dry till we were all safely home. Sorry no photos as the damp meant we were not looking our best! Liz P

Click on slide show for all the Christmas ride and walk photos

Wheel

Easy

Ride

Report

Several cyclists turned up for this mornings ride and 4 of us decided on a ride that should return us in to Harrogate for lunchtime. On our way toward St John Fisher's we collected William who apparently had been doing U turns for fun trying to figure out which ride to do!. We initially ventured to Wetherby via Rudding and Hags Road (not lane!) Spofforth, North Deighton and Kirk Deighton. and thankfully said goodbye to the drizzle that was lingering over Harrogate! As we arrived in Wetherby in double quick time due to good momentum and quiet roads we quickly decided on an extra dog leg via Thrope Arch and Boston Spa. Arriving back in Wetherby we decided on a coffee/cake stop in the shambles (where we were ushered upstairs, obviously unruly cyclist not permitted downstairs!). After some banter we decided to head back to Harrogate via Sicklinghall, Kirkby Overblow, Rudding and a very icy road through the showground back home. 5 cyclists x approx 36 miles on a much welcomed milder day!! Paul A

EG's Ride Report
 A dull day, for once as forecast, the heavy snow forecast for Tuesday failed to arrive, thank goodness. At Rossett Acre school DP managed the skaters waltz (on his bum), soon to be joined by Sarah who had managed to stay upright. Passing Hornbeam a few yellow tops could be seen, so there was a determination there to work off the Christmas pud, on the way to Low Bridge a voice called out good morning, it sounded like Max, but DP could not get his head round to confirm, anyway it was good morning to Max or who ever. At Low Bridge we had six riders, Barry Mac, Chris, Dave P, Dave W, Dave R, Glyn and Norman, today the average age was reduced somewhat. Although a few degrees above freezing the dampness made it feel cold, so we headed for Wetherby and hot drinks in Morrisons Cafe. In the cafe it could be seen that the effects of Christmas were still with us, in the reduction of food consumed, however our resident trencher men were not with us, one of them having a problem with a fat Schwable (sounds like that had been at the pud) Glyn had been having a few problems with his gears fortunately Norman was around to give it a few tweeks. When cycling it is advisable to have a tool kit , spare inner tubes, a mobile phone and a Norman. In the cafe a Wheel Easy Steve was seen with his face pressed to the window, after the initial shock it transpired he had lost his fellow riders. Then it was on to the ridge to Sicklinghall and Kirkby Overblow here the group split with four riders returning to Harrogate and three Glyn, Dave W and Dave P headed for Otley. On the swoop down to Castley a sheet of ice covered the road, this was negotiated on foot. At Otley there was a choice, into Dunnies for a rub down with chip fat like the Eskimos to keep out the cold, or the more refined Garden Centre, the Garden Centre won. (unfortunately). So two riders had luke warm tomato soup (sort of) and a stale roll. The route back was via Huby, North Rigton and Burn Bridge (quite lumpy) but the sort of thing that has to be done to atone for over indulging.
 Miles. 3 x say 41 miles = 123 miles. 4 x say 25 miles = 100 miles.
 Dave P

EGs ride postscript
 I spent Tuesday evening swapping tyres on my road bike, fitting a wider Schwalbe Marathon 28mm tyre to my rear wheel, and then trying to shoe-horn it under the mudguards which the manufacturer reckons can take 28mm tyres. Mmmmm - seemed physically impossible! After a few hours I thought I'd succeeded, but getting on my bike on Wednesday morning showed more adjustments were necessary, resulting in James and I missing the start of the EGs ride. Phone calls to Dave P were unanswered, so we had to play a new Christmas party game of "Guess where the EGs have gone". I reckoned it couldn't be towards Boroughbridge (as we've been there the last 2 Wednesdays) so it would be either towards Beningbrough or Wetherby. We set off to the former, which proved the wrong guess, so we didn't pass go, and didn't collect £s;200. Still the two of us had a great ride, which continued on from Beningbrough into York, where the River Ouse was still frozen over especially as we passed through the Clifton Ings. We had lunch in Dickinsons cafe by Clifford's Tower, and returned home via Long Marston, Cowthorpe and Knaresborough. I clocked 60 miles, James - living closer to York - 55. So there's another 115 miles

to add to the Captains Log for the final Wheel Easy ride of 2010. It also took my total for the year to 5,850, just short of my 6,000 target! What a great year of cycling - many thanks Wheel Easy!
Eric

2010	Wheel	Easy	Miles	(approx)	Today	700	Year	Total	144116
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