

Sunday, January 22, 2012
Wheel Easy Ride Report 299



Wheel Easy on Tour in Majorca (Martin and Yvonne)

While cycling we kept seeing riders from the GB Sky team training along the roads in the sunshine. As we approached Puerto de Pollenca riding along the coast I saw a guy in Sky kit waiting on the side of the road and realised it was the team manager David Brailsford. Minutes later the squad flew by giving it some real stick. So we thought nice end to the day, but that wasn't all. We were returning our hired bikes so were riding along the promenade road by the sea, and we were passed by David Brailsford accompanied by a guy in the world champion's rainbow jersey. It was the man himself Mark Cavendish. He stopped with 4 others from the team at cafe 1919 on the sea front. He was obviously relaxing after a hard training day so we just called over our congratulations on getting the BBC award and our best wishes to the team for the year. Then we drove home basking in reflected glory. Martin

Short Ride Report
To Follow

Medium Ride Report

On today's ride someone wondered if it was possible to write a 1 sentence report- so here goes! Dennis selected a route via Boroughbridge to avoid the wind as much as possible, so 11, and then 12, riders departed, met up at Boroughbridge, left Keith and 7 more to come home by Little Ribston and Follifoot after a drink, while the others returned to Harrogate. There you go. To flesh it out, it was a lovely sunny morning with a strong breeze, so Boroughbridge was a good option. WE made our way fairly quickly to B'bridge where Dennis and a small group set of home while the rest of us opted for a cafe stop and then a longer route home. It seemed good to try 'The Old Forge'. The new owner seems to have kept the same formula and is very welcoming. After a leisurely break, Keith kindly volunteered to lead us home by Thorpe Underwood, Whixley, Walshford, Little Ribston and back to Harrogate. It was a stunning ride- beautiful scenery, lovely sunshine and lots of chat. Somewhere along the way we lost Ian, but thought he'd get himself home safely. So all in all- a great 38 miles and thanks to Dennis and Keith for planning the route.

Alison N

Medium Plus Touring Ride Report

There were 11 takers for the medium plus ride this morning. Despite the somewhat inclement weather we set off towards Knox bridge with continuous assessment of the weather conditions and with an eye on amending the route if necessary. We left Knox bridge and made our way towards Hampsthwaite where there were some very strong cross winds along the more open parts of the road. I think that kite flying would have been maybe more suitable for the conditions than cycling. At Hampsthwaite we took a democratic vote and it was decided that we would go up Clint bank then Shaw Mills. Steve decided that he still wanted to go up to Brimham and then return home but insisted that it was not to prove he was a real man but that his lunch would be on the table at 1-30 so he wanted to stay fairly close to Harrogate. When I got to the top of the hill after Shaw Mills I could see about 4 miles in the direction we had come from but one thing I couldn't see was Paul Tindle's new hat which the manufactures say should be visible from 6 miles. I later found out that it was in Sophie's café. It must also have a magnetic pull towards cappuccino machines (I think I need to get one of these hats). The remaining 5 of us turned left at the Drovers Arms and then right and past the travellers site where the kettle wasn't quite boiled so we rode to the Fountains visitor centre where we got warmed through again and discussed the remainder of the ride. We all agreed that we should do it as planned. The route from Ripon to Boroughbridge was assisted by a tail wind

which made for a very pleasant and quick ride but we knew that the wind was going to get its own back on our return journey towards Harrogate. As it turns out it could have been a lot worse with just the odd bit of cross wind to contend with. It turned out to be a very nice ride really with the 5 of us doing about 40 miles with a good group of riders. I am not quite sure how many miles or coffee stops the other 5 of the group did, and then there was Steve who I really hope got back home for 1.30 and for a change made do with just 1 Sunday lunch. Many thanks, Terry

Well we set out with good intentions but clearly passing by Sophie's in Hampsthwaite and not stopping was a pedal too far on a very blustery day with storm clouds gathering. At the top of Clint Bank, Roy announced he was heading back, Sue was blown off her bike into the verge so Gia, Debbie and Paul were happy to accompany them via Birstwith and back to Hampsthwaite to Sophie's for coffee. We came back to Harrogate via Knox and Bilton Lane to sample the newly laid cycle paths and then on round The Stray and the hospital to Slingsby Walk. The weak link in the route is the crossing of the Wetherby Road by the hospital where there is no middle refuge for cyclists and a steady stream of traffic. 20 miles, the sun came out and home to clean the bike in the sunshine. Gia

Medium Plus Fast Ride Report

Only 2 brave souls (Steve and I) took on the force nine winds on the not so fast medium plus ride. On the way past Sophie's the temptation to stop was quite strong, but on we went up the hill towards Birstwith battling against the elements. Across the Toll bridge eventually we went and the left and first right onto Stripe Lane (?). This was a first for me and although it is quite a long climb, approx 2 miles, and was hard work under the conditions, it was quite enjoyable, with great views over to the left. Once the junction of the turning up hill (again!) to Brimham Rocks was found we were back on familiar ground and maybe one of the toughest parts with the wind almost knocking us backwards. Past the rocks and onward towards Fountains, where we declined the visitor centre and headed for a coffee stop at Ripon. By now the weather was pretty good and on we sped, with the wind behind us for a while as we went past the racecourse and on to Skelton On Ure and the Bridge Of Boro. Here we turned off to Aldborough and back towards Knaresborough and the wind was now sapping our strength. The long climb up Knaresborough hill was a real drag today and both of us were glad it was over. Despite that it was a really good ride with a different route to what we had done before so very enjoyable, although the last 5 miles made us both wish we could have got in the car!!. Approx 45 windy miles. Mark

Long Ride Report

Despite the weather forecast 6 riders decided to undertake the long ride. This increased to 7 as Dave W joined the group at Knaresborough. Unfortunately, Mike B had a puncture, but was unable to inflate the replacement tube and decided to return to Knaresborough for assistance. The rest of the group headed for Boroughbridge with a very strong tail wind. At Boroughbridge we were joined by Darren and continued on our way to Coxwold and then Byland Abbey. All the while the wind was at our backs but once we turned towards Kilburn we felt the full force of the wind. Given the very strength of the wind and the even stronger gusts we were all relieved to get to Thirsk for a rest. The ride then set off back to Boroughbridge; this was a mixture of pure joy with the wind behind us and pure hell when we were cycling into the wind. By the time we arrived in Boroughbridge the group had had enough cycling in the windy conditions and we all returned to Harrogate via Minskip, Staveley and Knaresborough. Peter J



