

Sunday, February 12, 2012
Wheel Easy Ride Report 302



Short Ride Report

This turned into an outing for 2 slightly infirm pensioners. Only Dave P joined me on the starting block for the short ride, the reason being that like me he'd been off colour most of the week. So we were able to wallow in an enjoyable grumpy old men session comparing symptoms as we headed for the Rossetts, and by Beckwithshaw we were doing really well, expanding the theme into a more general complaint about archaic transport policies and the innumerable other ills of the world. We should do this more often.

The gentle hills towards Pennypot were a reminder that we also needed to do a bit of pedalling, but not for long and before we knew it we were sailing, almost symptom free, down Rowden Lane to the sanctuary of Sophie's. A couple of leisurely coffees gave us ample time to dwell on our youth, our children and trips to Canada and the USA. By the time we were cycling gently up Hollins Lane the day had perked up considerably, almost sunny and in comparison with the last few days very mild indeed.

At the end of Crab Lane we followed what has now become my default route which avoids Skipton Road; left on Bilton Lane, residential streets to

Woodfield Road, join the newly resurfaced Sustrans path at Dragon Bridge, cut through to Claro Road, left at the top and follow the cycle paths along the edge of the Stray all the way to Oatlands Drive. Here I'd normally continue to Stray Rein, but the rest of the path looked icy so we preferred the on road alternative along Wheatlands Road East. A very pleasant 15 miles. Thank you Dave! Malcolm

Medium Ride Report

After the previous Sunday's snowfall and midweek temperatures falling well below freezing, who could have thought that today would have been sunny! Today, Sarah and I were joined by 10 riders including Neil, for his first time with Wheel Easy. Everyone was advised that this would be at a leisurely speed also concerned about the road conditions, we didn't want any nasty accidents. We kept as a group generally out of Hornbeam, into Pannal, Kirkby Overblow, Sicklinghall and Wetherby for the first time but not stopping! Out of Wetherby we cycled alongside the A1 and were amazed to find the warm glow of the sun which meant the path was ice free. After a brief photo call and comfort break in Boston Spa we would wait and see what the cycle path back into Wetherby was like bearing in mind it was quite overgrown with trees so probably not had chance to de-ice! As the group thought, the track was mostly ice so we headed back into Wetherby along the road. Here the group split - those for warming refreshments and those that had a Sunday lunch to get back for, or in my case, to the Blues Bar in Harrogate ... no not for a pint but what would be a "hair raising" experience, literally - a couple of male friends having their legs waxed in aid of the Sadie Rose appeal Thanks to all for your company - a very pleasant morning's ride. Thanks particularly to Peter for making sure myself (Sue) got home safely! Sarah and Sue

Medium Plus Ride Report

Some people thought it was plenty warm enough to cycle. Well yes, comparatively speaking at least it wasn't sub zero with sheet ice, but quite a lot of us decided there was definite chill still in the air. So we set off for Ripon as a group of 14. At Cafe Nero in Ripon democracy took over, or at least it actually caused a divide between the softies heading for Skelton and Boroughbridge, and the hard men continuing with the allotted route to Galphay and Brimham Rocks. I take my hat off to them heading ever upward but the cosiness of the Vale of York seemed more attractive to most of us. But the sun came out and we had a super ride past the racecourse, through Skelton-on-Ure to Boroughbridge. Then we rode home via Minskip, Staveley and Knaresborough. Just in time to see a really decent game of rugby with the right side winning - that warmed me up properly! Martin W

At Ripon 4 riders, Bill, Steve, New Peter & PCJ, decided to complete the original ride by going to Brimham Rocks via Galphay, Grantley and Risplith. Unfortunately, New Peter collected a puncture on leaving Winksley. Although a replacement inner tube was fitted it was felt that a speedy return to Harrogate was called for. Therefore, on arriving at Risplith the group headed for Harrogate via Sawley, Bishop Thornton and Ripley. Although it was the most direct route it certainly tested our hill climbing techniques. Peter J

Long Ride Report

The lure of a flat ride around a string of double barrelled villages attracted 11 riders all desperate to get out and enjoy the day. Turning off Leeds Road to North Rigton was the only tricky bit of the whole ride, we had to negotiate our way carefully along the tyre tracks between mounds of slushy, slippery icy snow. Once we arrived at North Rigton it was plain sailing all the way. Darren and Mark took over as ride leaders occasionally missing turnings but eventually arriving at Tadcaster after a photo stop at the Bramham Old Peoples Shelter. Geoff left us after an early lunch muttering something about a bad back, though we all knew the real reason (Wales v Scotland on TV). The rest of us entered the flat lands around York and the string of twice named villages - Bolton Percy, Appleton Roebuck, Acaster Malbis, Askham Bryan, Askham Richard, Hutton Wandesley, Long Marston, Thorpe Underwood and Great Ouseburn. Some of them seem to have more than letters to the name than people in the village.

The weather was very kind to us; there wasn't even a wind as we passed Marston Moor and there was even the odd sunny moment.

Total ride of about 63miles. I was left wondering why a flat ride in perfect conditions seems to be just as tiring as tackling several steep hills and battling against the wind? Phil



