

Sunday, March 4, 2012

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 305



### Starter Ride Report

There could not have been a worse day for a starter group to start! To our great surprise five riders turned up for a short ride on the cycle routes around Harrogate. The aim of the starter sessions is to encourage people to cycle more and for them to eventually join the various Wheel Easy rides on a Sunday or Wednesday. In addition there is the possibility of one to one cycle training during the week if any of the group are interested. The group were brilliant and luckily they could see the funny side of cycling in the cold and wet. I just hope they return next week and their bikes do not appear on Ebay this week. Well done everyone! Paul

### Short Ride Report

No one joined John for a short ride today

### Medium Ride Report

The ride began in the rain and ended in the rain, wind and sleet. Oh yes the ride. Well there are no photos from DP, as taking hands out of wet gloves

then trying to put them back on was very difficult and numb fingers and photography don't go together. However Malcolm M turned out to take our photos at the start. (bless him) was that a smile on your face when we set off Malcolm? could the photos perhaps be destined for the Wheel Easy "Mad" gallery. So the Medium ride headed up the hill to Rossett Green where the group was split in to two with John Eaton (redundant from the short ride) leading the faster group and Sue W and Dave P the slower one. Then on to Burn Bridge and the Kirkby Overblow ridge, the views that usually impress didn't as extremities began to feel numb. At Wetherby the slow group decided to forgo coffee (yes DP was one of them) and head for home, a wise decision as the rain had now turned to sleet and a head wind had arisen, given a high wind chill factor, not a good combination for outdoor activities. A mob phone call was made to John E to tell him of our groups decision, however this proved difficult (hope you were in a warm cafe John). The route back was via the A661, not a preferred road but the shortest and quickest, as some of our group were feeling the cold badly, with fingers so numb they were unable to change gear. However we all made it safely back to Harrogate at around the 22 miles mark. Yes it was Wet Wet Wet and we couldn't feel our fingers, couldn't feel our toes, the sleet was all around us and freezing our nose (no that didn't rhyme well.). Roll on summer. Dave P

#### Medium Plus Ride Report

Six from Hornbeam, significant rain, sloshing through Follifoot, Spofforth not fun, seeping under collars, steaming coffee at Wetherby, sociable chat, sleet to set off, shortest route home, soaking through waterproof gloves, socks wet by Follifoot, showground welcome site, sodding rain! Martin W

#### Long Ride Report

The original long ride was going to be Coxwold/Ampleforth/Easingwold, but given the conditions prevailing when we assembled at Hornbeam Park this was not going to be the long ride. Ten souls decided to brave the long ride whatever it was going to be. The committee decided to head to Boroughbridge and there, depending on the weather, decide on the route to be taken. On our way to Boroughbridge conditions deteriorated and it was decided to head to Ripon, again with the intention of deciding what route to follow after Ripon. At Ripon, Dave S decided that he would return to Boroughbridge and was followed by 2 other riders. The remaining riders were greeted with dismay by the staff at Ripon Spa Gardens cafe, who could not believe that anyone would be out to today and especially cycling. After we had dried out a little and got some warmth into our hands and feet it was agreed to return home via Studley Roger, Fountains Abbey and Bishop Thornton. At Fountains Abbey, Simon stopped to sort out his gloves, in an

attempt to try and keep his hands warmer than they were. Phil decided to push on so as to stop hyperthermia setting in. Similarly, Jill also decided to keep on going so as to keep warm. The group caught up with Jill and we all arrived at Ripley to be told by Eric that the temperature was only 2°C. Having ridden in freezing rain for the best part of 3 hours everyone was glad that we were nearly finished and the prospect of a hot shower provided sufficient encouragement for the last push to Harrogate. Peter J



