

Sunday, March 18, 2012

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 307



### Starter Ride Report

Twelve riders met early at 9am for a 10 mile ride with hills. Steve Wilson, on his new bike, volunteered to help me so we divided into two equal groups. The route took us to Rudding Park, Follifoot, Calcutt and back through the showground. We all managed the five hills using our gears well. Next week we will increase the distance to 13 miles with a coffee stop half way. The target is to join the official Wheel Easy short ride on the 1st April. Paul

### Short Ride Report

Our group of 4 (welcome to new riders Alan and Trudie) headed up to Pannal, Kirby Overblow (glorious views in the sunshine), through to Sicklinghall for tea in Wetherby. The ladies in the North Street café seem genuinely disappointed that there were only 4 of us but Justin and Alan manfully tucked into bacon sandwiches and tea cakes. Then back via Spofforth, Follifoot and Hornbeam (total of 22 miles - sorry Alan it wasn't the promised 15 ). Rachael B

### Medium Ride Report

We welcomed new member Sally to join the 12 riders starting out on the medium ride. Following the prescribed route out to Boroughbridge via Arkendale and the Dunsforths. Cruising along at a moderate pace enjoying the spring sunshine along a favourite ride. Two lycra clad riders finding the pace a little too moderate shot off at Marton in the direction of Bedale to have a longer ride. Only 2 takers for the coffee stop in Boroughbridge, the remainder heading back home via Roecliffe and Copgrove to finish at 1-pm in time for Mothers Day celebrations. Around 30 miles, Dennis B.

### Medium Plus Ride Report

Five opted for a quicker pace today. Unfortunately my scrutiny of the ride had only gone as far as to note that it went through Bishop Monkton which meant I could get back to Boroughbridge before the in-laws arrived for Mother's Day dinner. Consequently the rest of the ride was a bit of a mystery to me and as it turned out to the others too. So after a quick route check with Touring Pace Leader Terry we set off on what was to be a bit of a mystery tour. Before we made it to Birstwith Glyn's front derailleur had a coming together with his chain rendering both unusable. Fortunately Geoff had a spare chain link with him and after removing the derailleur Glyn was good to go although now with substantially less gears to play with. The touring pacers passed us whilst we were stood encouraging Glyn which at least proved we were on the correct route and gave me the opportunity to take further directions from Terry when we finally caught up with him at Darley. Ahead of the touring pacers once again the road towards Yorke's Folly seemed tougher than I remember which it turned out was due to us having taken a wrong turn and done a few extra miles before catching up with Terry and his group again as we approached Pateley Bridge. Again this was not a problem as this would allow us to take more directions before heading off towards Brimham Rocks. Mike had had enough of reading every road sign and so departed back to Harrogate whilst we had lunch at the cattle market where it's very difficult to part with more than £5;2. Our hilly detours had resulted in Glyn having to manually move his chain onto the small ring; good for going uphill but not so on the flat or down hill - I doubt if he'll be participating in any spin classes anytime soon. Another wrong turn meant that we approached Brimham from the wrong direction but this time there was no sign of Terry so we were on our own from here. Dave led us at a good pace to Bishop Monkton where I left the group to find their own way back to Hornbeam. The GPS of our route today would make interesting reading, but an enjoyable ride nevertheless in good company and excellent weather too. 4 x 50 miles and 1 x 45

### Long Ride Report

Things didn't start well for the long ride. The designated leader arrived late and without route hand-outs to find a small group waiting patiently but on verge of setting off without me. Several of the usual suspects had opted for medium+ ride so there were only 6 of us heading to Masham. We stopped at Hampsthwaite where I attempted to explain the route. Unfortunately by the time we all met up at Suncatcher café it transpired that 3 different routes had been taken. My route (the official one) included Brimham, Fell Beck, Laverton, Ringbeck, Weathermarske, Swinton and finally Masham. There was some stupendous scenery accentuated by the welcome spring sunlight with fine views across to the Hambleton hills. After lunch we split into 2 groups and headed for Lofthouse. The fine weather got even better and that a route that at times can be quite tortuous became a real pleasure, we even had a tailwind! Things got even better on the descent to Lofthouse as the local authority had been out resurfacing the road, perhaps the Tour de France is visiting. Back to Harrogate by Smelthouses, Brimham and Hampsthwaite a total of 65 miles and the first time I have predicted the mileage correctly. Phil



