

Sunday, March 25, 2012

Wheel Easy Ride Report 308



Starter Ride Report

Nine riders in two groups completed the 13 mile ride to Knaresborough returning home via Calcutt, Follifoot and Rudding Park. We are hoping the group will now join the Wheel Easy short ride on Sunday mornings. Paul

Medium Ride Report

11 set off on a medium ride to Boston Spa via Wetherby, riding on through the mist and fog that had enveloped Harrogate on the Sunday morning, some newcomers were welcomed and incorporated into the fold as we progressed through Pannal being regularly overtaken by other early morning cyclists from other groups and confusion occasionally arose as to whether they were "ours or not" but at the speed they were going it was soon apparent these were "speed merchants" were not ours as they sped off into the fog and oncoming traffic. A steady ride though Kirby Overblow en route to Wetherby where a change in route was suggested by Sue C and we deviated through Linley to admire some of the "bling" of footballers houses for the benefit of a new member who was visiting this country and then heading towards Bramham

via Collingham where en route we eventually climbed out of the fog and emerged into the sunshine at the the side of the pig farm for a quick stop where some of the group spent a few moments "conversing" with the large sows and their small piglets in the field at the side of the road where they were soaking up the early morning sunshine with apparent delight...bless. By now it was a glorious day and onward we continued via Bramham to Clifford and returned via a little used track at the side of the A1 to Wetherby where the group split and some stopped for coffee and the rest continued along and back home. Mileage approx 33 (give or take), and after a few concerns with the antics of early morning boy racers in the fog near the Pannal Car Boot sale the rest of the day was an enjoyable ride in the glorious sunshine and we were all back in Harrogate by early afternoon. John W

Medium Plus Slow Pace Ride Report

Today was a red letter day as not only were some of us attempting a much longer ride but we were to be honoured by being accompanied all day by El Butler - a very rare event indeed! 7 of us set off but we soon lost Gordon and Alison. Due to a misunderstanding, as we approached the Cowthorpe junction the touring pace group were approaching out of the mist in the opposite direction having captured the 2 of them en route. They all soon disappeared again into the fog. Now 5 we stopped for a posing session at Marston Moor and then shortly after we were met by our York Guide (hired at great expense!) who brought the sunshine with him. We were allowed to pose with some steam engines then it was along the A64, across the racecourse and into York. There was a brief comfort stop at Rowntree Park then it was a beautiful ride along the river enjoying the flora and wildlife up to Beningbrough where we stopped at the farm shop for lunch. Some of the touring pace group were already there enjoying the sunshine. Shortly after our guide left us to return to York while we 5 returned to Harrogate via Arkendale. 57 miles x 5. Liz

Medium Plus Touring Pace Ride Report

Approx 55 miles. Flat. To York and Beningbrough. Hornbeam, Showground, Follifoot, Spofforth, L to Little Ribston, over A1, Cowthorpe, Tockwith, Marston Moor Memorial, Long Marston, Hutton Wandesley, Angram, Askham Richard. Follow cycleway by York southern by-pass, and continue on cycle paths to racecourse. Continue by River through York crossing to East Bank at Railway Bridge. Sustrans route all the way to Beningbrough Hall (Farm Shop possible café), Linton-on-Ouse, Aldwark Bridge, Great Ouseburn, Marton, Arkendale, Ferrensby, Knaresborough, Harrogate.

Just as it said on the tin! Fog until Angram then glorious sunshine. Excellent sandwiches and soup at the Farm café. Ride group size did tend to vary so we'll go with an average of 15. Sarah C

Medium Plus Ride Report

Six riders elected for the medium plus faster pace ride and after miles of fog and cold conditions the sun finally arrived before we entered the outskirts of York - he obviously hadn't put his clock forward. This was a great relief to the report writer as he had decided to put his shorts, mitts and summer socks on for the first time this year! A brisk pace was set and we were soon at Rowntrees Park where another person had forgotten to put his clocks forward and the cafe was shut. So on to the allotted cafe stop at Beningbrough. The route along the river was a delight and soon we were sitting outside in the glorious sunshine at Home Farm cafe enjoying well earned refreshments. We could have sat there all afternoon but it was time to move on. With a combination of Bob, Roger, Steve and Mike taking turns to lead the peloton, a good and consistent speed was maintained back to Harrogate. The weather was so good that a detour through Arkendale was taken. Well done to Mick, who on his first faster ride, kept up with us all the way and only slightly wavered at the end. A most enjoyable ride of 57 miles at an average of 15.4 mph - Glyn

Long Ride Report

Ripley , Fountains Abbey, Kirkby Malzeard, Masham, loop round to Middleham , over Park Rash the gentler way, Kettlewell, Grassington and main road home.82 miles. Peter B



