

Sunday, April 1, 2012

Wheel Easy Ride Report 309



Short Ride Report

A record number of 24 riders opted for the short ride, twelve of whom had been attending the starter group sessions. Yvonne and Dave led a group of mainly regular Wheel Easy riders while Malcolm, Gia, Steve and myself led two groups of new riders. We all enjoyed a lovely ride to Hampsthwaite with refreshments at Sophie's. Well done everyone and we hope the new members will become regular Sunday morning riders. Paul

Medium Ride Report

Our group of 16 left in three groups led by Dennis, Sue and myself, the weather warming as we went. Past Bishop Monkton the expected happened, Dennis announced he was peeling off to avoid Ripon and the coffee stop. Six of our group joined Dennis while the rest of us headed on apprehensively to Ripon Spa Gardens, the cheapest tea room in England. Apprehensive because we anticipated hordes of cyclists from all corners of Yorkshire and long queues for refreshments.

Wrong! Members of a club were sitting at a large table, refreshments in hand. We strolled in, placed our orders and settled down for tea and coffee in the sunshine. The way back through Ripon and Copgrove was equally pleasant and uneventful. In Knaresborough the air was blue with the smoke from two-stroke engines - a Sunday swarming of scooters had happened. I reflected on a suggested policy sent in to Mark Thomas' Policy programme on radio 4 - 'If the decibels emitted by the exhaust of a moped should exceed the IQ of the rider, both should be crushed'. A very pleasant ride and, if the weather forecasts are to be believed, one that we can remember fondly during the upcoming cold spell. Ian

Ride Report Daffodil Ride Slow Pace.

Seven of us left Hornbeam but within a few yards a fallen off chain caused a delay enough for the Medium Group to pass by but fortunately that was the last of our problems. Then it was on to Ripon, by which time the sun had gained some warmth and layers of clothes were shed en route. Paul B joined us near Littlethorpe and then we were 8. The route went to Wath, West Tanfield and along the ridge with views of the North York Moors and on to Wells where we paused for our first photo stop. Then we swooped down to have a quick look at the daffodils at Thorp Perrow before retracing our route for a few yards before turning into Snape. Here we paused for another photo among hosts of golden daffodils. We turned right in Carthorpe and then turned into Camp Hill for lunch. Here Caroline ate "the best egg sandwich I have ever had" and we hopefully recruited 2 people to Wheel Easy. The efficient Paul B managed to produce a card for them. We returned via Wath and Ripon then Paul led us through the Mountgarrat estate towards Ripley and into Harrogate. While crossing a stream 2 ladies who shall remain nameless shunned the bridge and ended up ankle deep in mud and water! Thanks to Max who back marked, was breakdown support and led us out of the Mountgarrat estate when Paul had rushed off with some ladies who needed to get 'glammed up' for early evening dates. 7 x 57 miles, bit less for a Killinghall lad! Sorry about the gross underestimate of mileage - not my strong point! Liz P

Ride Report Daffodil Ride Touring Pace.

We wandered lonely as a cloud (there weren't any!), floating on high over tarmac and North Bridge, when all at once we got to Snape and saw a crowd - a host of golden daffodils. Beside the stream beneath the trees, stomachs fluttering to get to teas. Continuous as Thorpe Perrow cafe doth shine and twinkling with cakes and coffee, the food stretched in a never ending line along the terrace in the sun. Ten cyclists saw I at a glance stuffing their faces with animated chat. The folks around looked on in glee and were glad to see

the noisy lot push off back home - well some also did a big loop over Masham and Swinton. 58 miles, about 11 cyclists and more daffs than I could count.
Martin W

Medium Plus Ride Report - Alternative Ride

Four of us decided we had too little time to visit Snape and we needed some hills to complement the perfect weather so Pete, Bob, Robert and Denis headed to Ilkley via the classic Wheel Easy route that takes in all the hills. The long drag up to Norwood was enlivened by several pelotons of competitors enjoying their first lap of a national cycling race that started at the Sun Inn - fortunately they were riding towards us so we didn't have the ignominy of being passed. However they did motivate us for our climb to Timble and the climb from Snowden before we enjoyed the descent to Askwith and run along to Ilkley and the Avanti café. Over the coffees there were suggestions of returning via the Cow and Calf but common-sense won through and we headed back via Askwith, and Otley to get home for (late) lunch. Denis K

Four of us (Dennis, Peter "Bob and Bob") did the Medium Plus alternative ride route, great ride, good company. We stopped to watch some cycle races between Stainton and the "reservoirs" and managed not to embarrass them too much then carried on our ride! Views over the countryside were spectacular and my legs (I'd cycled to Hornbeam from Cookridge first) managed to keep the cranks turning. We had a coffee stop in Ilkley before returning via Askwith/Otley to Pool where I "broke off" and climbed Pool Bank and then home via Bramhope. A great ride, really enjoyed it! Bob R

Long Ride Report

Well I thought it was a great 30% ride. 30% almost up Boltby in the heat, 30% sensibly rested or walked. 30% came back to Harrogate with me. Great descent from Boltby almost a v long freewheel to Rievaulx, and a welcome drink then a 16% optional circuit taken by all round the terrace. More climb to the Gliding Club where Darren and Mark left as the pace even at 14 ave was seemingly too slow. Most discovered the delights of High Kilburn for their first time, then after the Coxwold car rally, we (sorry) lost Glen (hope the photo appears to show all is well) and Phil went to recover him unsuccessfully, and got ahead of the pack. The hurry homers shot off at Easingwold and the drinkers eventually found a coffee in a barren Easingwold having been rejected at cafe 21. The late afternoon wind against us turned up to slow the return home on a great ride. Hope those new to it enjoyed it as much, Steve rode medium last week ! Richard 80m the 30% ave was 14

and original route plan was <http://bikeroutetoaster.com/Course.aspx?course=369664>. Richard



