

Sunday, April 29, 2012

Wheel Easy Ride Report 313



Short Ride Report

One year on to the day, it had been a glorious sunny day to remember when William married Kate today was forecast wet, wet and more wet! They weren't wrong! Nevertheless, a small group of the newer ladies ventured out for the short ride plus Paul who said he had been cycling in shorts over winter and today was no exception (see picture evidence!) Braving the weather was Diane, Debbie, Rachel, Vanessa and Adrienne. We decided to see who wanted a coffee stop at the end of the ride as "Fodder" would probably be over-run with Harrogate Flower Show visitors taking refuge so Gia had earlier suggested "Indulge" back at Hornbeam. The rain had steadily increased as we made our way up to Beckwith Knowle and through the deserted Cardale Park and an empty "Hub" café (only open Monday to Friday). As we cycled down towards Burn Bridge, Rachel's first outing on a new racing bike decided to leave the group at "the point of no return". The rest of us carried on into Kirkby Overblow whilst the rain was now quite heavy and the wind had picked up. Paul, again ably rescued a slipped chain on Adrienne's bike. With the traffic lights now in sight at Crimble, Paul made

a speedy break to the front to catch the lights at green which we all then made too. At Crimple Lane, I said goodbye to the, by now, very wet and cold ladies and Paul, who kindly lead them back to Hornbeam as I disappeared towards Wetherby Road and to my surprise, actually got across the junction into Forest Lane without having to stop for traffic, now that must be a first for me. Thanks to you all, despite the rain, there was still plenty of chat or was that just the chattering of teeth I could hear ...brrrrrrh! Sue T

Medium Ride Report

When you are ride leader you feel you just have to turn up, even when the meteorologists are predicting something approaching the end of the world. We duly arrived in the certain hope and expectation that nobody in their right mind would appear. However, an alarmingly large group of eager, smiling, rather wet faces began to arrive so we hastily moved on to Gia's Plan B which was basically a swift out and return to a Boroughbridge café, which seemed the safest option in the light of forecast gales. Morale was high and the winds surprisingly low but we were quite wet by the time all groups descended upon The Old Foundry and the chat turned to what propelled us all out on such a dreadful day. Rachel and Kate (welcome Kate to your first trip out with Wheel Easy!) were on a "not to be deviated from" training programme for their Lands End to John O Groats trip in September; Helen and Debbie were terrified of the perils of becoming "past it"; Monica was enjoying the company and a bit of last minute training for next week's Tadcaster Triathlon; Sally (also new to Wheel Easy and welcome) had expressed interest in joining in with the ladies' triathlon training, so was just full of reckless enthusiasm and Keith was there for the bacon sandwich. Things got even wetter after the café stop but we took a straight line back to Knaresborough and Harrogate through a lot of very picturesque standing water, falling temperatures and increasing wind. Never was a hot shower more appreciated. A surprisingly enjoyable quick 25 miles and, look, I have even managed to make no reference at all to "singing in the rain, just singing in the rain, what a wonderful feeling, I'm cycling again" Helen & Keith

Medium Plus Ride Report

Why is it that when the weather forecast is for heavy rain it can be so accurate and yet be so wide of the mark when it comes to predicting better conditions? Hopes were raised when opening the curtains this morning to see that it was dry but I knew it was only a matter of time before the rain would set in. So a quick check of my emails to see if all rides were off today due to inclement weather - no such luck, and off to Hornbeam Park. With 5 Wheel Easy stalwarts planning on travelling the proposed 65 miles with me, including Jill who had no takers for her short-long ride, we set off in

surprisingly good conditions. Although when the rain did start it soon became heavy, then heavier and as I sit here typing this report it's still raining heavily. As for the ride itself we actually stuck to the rather unusual route to Boroughbridge via Scriven, Lingerfield, Farnham and Bishop Monkton. As we approached Boroughbridge Geoff and Steve had had enough and wisely headed back home. However Terry and Rob were still ploughing on through the puddles in the direction of Milby when Jill and I decided it was time for an executive decision suggesting that perhaps it was a good time for a café break. As the rain got even heavier as we sat in the Old Foundry Café not much persuasion was required to call it a day and head directly back to Harrogate. Mrs B thinks I'm mad when I go out cycling on days like today and begrudgingly I might agree with her this time. But in spite of the conditions the company was good, the fruit toast was excellent and the talk of long summer rides to come was inspiration enough to get through days like today. 6 x 32 miles Martyn B

Long Ride Report

No long ride due to the weather



