

Sunday, May 6, 2012

Wheel Easy Ride Report 314



Martin welcomed new members Brian and James and informed everyone that it was the 6th anniversary of Wheel Easy. Six years ago a group of approximately 20 joined Malcolm and Gia on the first Wheel Easy ride. Today the membership is 265.

Short Ride Report

What a lovely morning, sun shining. I had set my alarm for 7.45 and realised that my phone was two hours slow so quickly got dressed, carbon bike out and was at Hornbeam in time. Eight of us left for knaresborough six women and 2 blokes,,, showground proved to be some what intreasting as we was told that we could not go down the cycle path to Rudding,, so one of the members of the team took the rest of us down the other way to find out the gate was locked so the bikes had to be lifted over. Continued to Follifoot, Calcutt and Water side for tea and every thing on the menu or that how it looked. This is where we all went our own way home, Beningbrough hall for me to meet my boys from the medium plus for tea and cake. Lovely ride and

what a laugh and no one was slow. So well done to all female and male riders. Darren

Medium Ride Report

Terry and Paul B divided the riders into three groups. Terry's group of seven set off at a cracking pace towards Beckwithshaw. We soon lost Max who had a puncture. The route took us past the Sun Inn, across the A59 towards Darley where Terry and Steve P discussed the possibility of continuing towards Pateley but opted instead for another blast towards Sophie's. After meeting up with the other groups we headed home via the Jennyfields where Terry informed us he had free wheeled most of the way and had not changed gear. Thanks for a great ride Terry! Paul

What a grand day for a bike ride, notwithstanding the parky start. Not many knees to be seen. Eleven of the middle lot were shepherded up to Little Alms Cliff (past a punctured Max), making a decision to eschew the original Darley Mill cafe stop in favour of Sophie's. There was a simple reason for this - to have the stop after the Birstwith Challenge. A potential mutiny was firmly squashed and all riders (save one mutineer) successfully climbed the hill. On to Sophie's to meet up with the first group who had obviously had the same idea, and then back via Killinghall and Knox. About 11 x 25 miles. Paul B

Lone Rider.

After five days of rain, wind, mud and standing water on the TPT, today's ride, with no wind and sunshine, promised to be a doddle. As I was feeling reasonably fit I thought that I would accompany the faster of three groups. Perhaps I wasn't as fit as I thought because I slowly fell behind despite Paul Ts best efforts of encouragement. As I urged Paul to catch up with the others and leave me to drop back to the next group I realised that I had a slow puncture. The second group came along offering help and then the third group passed by, again with offers of help. At least three other solo cyclists offered commiserations and help. (Thanks to you all). The offending tube was removed, the cover checked for sharp objects and a replacement tube fitted, all before you could count to fifty thousand. I set off in hot pursuit, going a little faster now. I caught the third group up at Darley Mill and we sorted out the route to take to Birstwith. The chase was now on to catch the next group. As I passed Sophie's café I sensed, through the window, shadows scoffing. Seasoned Poddler that I am, I didn't fall for the siren's charm and continued homewards. I never caught up with the other groups, the majority of which I am reliably informed had just been spirited away! Max

Medium Plus Ride Report

In perfect cycling weather ten or so set off and picked up Ian and Ruth en route, with panniers training for Edinburgh. At Beningbrough they were (hopefully) to come back with Martin's 3rd group. A faster than touring pace, though not as fast as the fast group who were leaving the café as we arrived. But not so fast as to miss the vixen and cub at Clareton on one of the many deviations even before we got to Boroughbridge toilets. Then two groups to the café to be joined by slow ride (apparently not that slow) leader Darren. Back via Linton and Whixley / Gelsthorpe level crossing. At Ribston the front shot off home via Knaresborough. 58 miles in fine weather made it glorious. Richard

Long Ride Report

Masham was the destination. As the ride progressed the finer details were worked out. Basically if there were two possible routes to Masham at any junction: long hilly route left, short flat route right, we would go left on the long hilly route. So we first went by Clint Bank & Burnt Yates to Brimham Rocks. En route the first puncture fairy struck James. So after repairs we continued the climb to Brimham, then over Dallow Moor followed by the circuit of Dallowgill to Kirby Malzeard, where we diverted again to do the circuit of Ringbeck, arriving in Masham for lunch at 12.30. So do we return hilly route via Lofthouse, or flat route via Wath and Ripon? You guessed it: Lofthouse. We paused for a team photo on the summit - well a photo of 5 of the team as David R and James M had gone on ahead and were found scoffing home-made ice creams outside the first building in Lofthouse village. After the 2 mile descent into Lofthouse it was inevitable that brakes and wheel rims would be rather hot and whilst we were queueing for our ice creams at the back of the building, there was an almighty explosion from the front. " Sounds like a tyre exploding" I said as I went back to see what had happened, only to find many pairs of eyes all staring at my bike. The exploding inner tube had blown part of the tyre off the wheel rim - quite a feat! So after finishing ice creams we set to work on replacing the inner tube and with the combined strength of 3 pairs of hands, one toe strap from David R, and a cunning device carried by Roger, we eventually succeeded in getting the tyre back onto the rim. We then continued via Pateley Bridge, Beverley, Smelthouses, Brimham Rocks again, arriving in Harrogate just after 5pm. 66 miles, 5,000' of climbing. The weather had been wonderful - the rain which was forecast over the Dales in the afternoon never materialised, and we were blessed with long range views throughout the ride, including distant views of Teesside. A great ride, which certainly left me well and truly cream crackered by the end! Eric



