

Sunday, July 1, 2012

Wheel Easy Ride Report 322



Short Ride Report

Five ladies and two gents headed for the delights of Knaresborough and beyond. Paul T on his recovery ride rode back stop, with JE at the front. At Farnham a vote was taken as to whether to head back into Knaresborough, and the Riverside Cafe, or do an extra 30minute loop round the villages. The Cafe won. Victoria, (not that one) seemed to have problems with her gears and steering. Luckily Paul was on hand to assist, and we all got back together at riverside. Here Sue decided to carry on and take the Beryl Burton cycle path back, while Sue T and Victoria went up the cycle path out of Knaresborough, and back to Harrogate. The remainder took advantage of the facilities, and refreshments at the Cafe. Here we were treated to a parade of up market sportive type bikes coming in in waves, Paul found out it was an Audax event. The Cafe ran out of Scones and Teacakes, (we had already got ours, good timing). So Ruth Irene Paul and John E continued up the hill. Here Paul left us for home, and the remaining three completed the journey together. In all just over 15 miles in under 2 hours riding time. John E

Medium Ride Report

There were about 20 of us wanting to do the medium ride on this cloudy and somewhat windy morning, so we split into 2 groups, with Malcolm kindly agreeing to take a faster group. The groups divided pretty much according to sex/gender, so the blokes went with Malcolm and the women opted for our group, with the honourable exception of Dennis. Diane, a relative novice to cycling, albeit not to Wheel Easy!, was in our group, which was quite brave given the hilly nature of the ride. We set off along Leadhall Lane towards Rossett, the skies threatening some rain, but not very seriously - this was July, after all. We passed through Beckwithshaw and then right towards Little Alms Cliff, into a stiff breeze which was not quite directly against us, but nearly. A long haul up to the car park at Stainburn Woods, with the windmills spinning briskly to our right, where we got our breath back and took a photo, and then down to the B6451, right and then immediately left down to Swinsty and Fewston Reservoirs. A light drizzle had started and then got a little heavier as we crossed the dam wall and went up to the car park, where we had a toilet stop, and most of us had difficulty in deciding what was the best clothing to put on for the drizzle and wind and sweat produced by the hill climbing. We then took the steep narrow road up to Timble, (some debating the reason for this steep up and then immediately back down to bring us to the same place we had just been...). Dennis left us at the top of the hill, keen to get back for his Sunday dinner, so I was left with my concubines (as Sally put it). We zoomed back down in the drizzle to the reservoirs and on to an excellent tea stop at Fewston Village Hall, where we came across Malcolm and some of the faster medium group. On emerging from the Village Hall the weather had improved significantly, and, of course, we had a following wind most of the way back. We changed the route slightly at this stage, and came back along Penny Pot Lane and across the roundabout, down to the bridge over Oak Beck and up towards Harrogate. Geraldine and Liz and I turned left along Kent Road, and Alison made sure that the rest were able to get back to Hornbeam or home. Well done to Diane for sticking with it, as it was pretty hilly and windy. About 23 miles. Joe

A wise owl said that, at least for me and about 19 others, this was not a day for heroics or indeed for a hilly 50 miles to Bolton Abbey which is much the same thing, and that a blowy Medium to Timble would be quite testing enough. So I stayed in the medium 'pen' anticipating a relatively gentle stroll, but was immediately press ganged by J and G to lead the faster group. It's a very long time since anyone asked me to lead anything faster, but you gotta do what you gotta do so I did, or tried to. Some names had escaped me, but it turned out that in most cases this was hopefully less a sign of Alzheimer's than a reflection of the fact that some of our group were pretty new to Wheel

Easy. Anyway, we were 9 - including Trudy and Warren whose attendance at spinning classes paid ample dividends as they raced up the hills, Peter, Richard, Gordon, Alison, Neil and James. Most of them are pretty quick too. The fast boys and girls kindly waited for a couple of us who were a bit slower, at Stainburn woods, Fewston car park and in Timble where we took the photo. The wind and increasing rain were at least partly offset by the magnificent views of distant spots of sunshine illuminating the 'golf balls' and then the Dales, scarily black clouds getting ever nearer and the turbines at Knabs Ridge whizzing round energetically, producing lots of lovely green electricity. After Timble it was back down to the dam where we waved to the other group who still had the worst bit to come, and then as fast as we could into the Parochial Hall and out of the rain for 5 of us, while the rest decided to carry on. We downed several cups of coffee, some of them hot, and were preparing to leave when the other group arrived. Happily, the rain had cleared as we followed instructions to divert from the advertised route and enjoy a very wind assisted zoom along Pennypot. Neil, James and Richard, all from Knaresborough, turned left at the roundabout to return home up Knox and the Beryl Burton, leaving Peter and I to tackle Cornwall Road. About 22 miles. Malcolm

Medium Plus Ride Report

Terry stepped in to lead the medium plus which on paper is one of the fine rides in the Wheel Easy calendar. Today it was a major challenge, wind, rain and gloom, all the ingredients for a miserable ride. But in true Wheel Easy style everyone was looked after, sheltered from the worst of the winds and in the main the group stayed together for the entire ride. This is a huge boost to morale and a testament to the ethos of Wheel Easy. The café at Stumps Cross was a welcome break as the temperature had dropped, it was raining and the wind speeds increased. How many times have you had to pedal hard to go downhill? Sounds fun this ride doesn't it? After the café we were assured that the worst was almost over and we would soon be in the shelter of the Wharfe Valley. Here the ride back via Bolton Abbey, Ilkley and Askwith was much more enjoyable. At Askwith we returned home via the moor with some stopping at the Heritage Centre for a cuppa. Welcome to a couple of riders who haven't been out much with Wheel Easy, thanks to Terry for leading us and keeping our spirits up. 53 hilly windy miles! Gia (who is now only going to ride on the sunny days!!!!)

It's Sunday again and the weather was looking dodgy as it was warm, windy with a light fine drizzle. Mark and myself set off to Beckwithshaw, Little Arms Cliff, Darley, Dacre, down Yorks Folly and up Greenhow Hill with a head wind. Surviving that we continued on to Bolton Abbey via Appletreewick. We had

our tea stop then continued to Ilkley, Askwith, Snowdon, Timble, Fewston, Pennypot Lane and home,,,good ride and 57 miles. Darren

Long Ride Report

Eight people set off on the planned long ride. After the long slog into the wind up to Stump Cross & no imminent sign of the weather clearing it was decided to review the destination when we got to the café at Burnsall. All agreed to continue on to Cracoe, but as the hills were still shrouded in dark cloud the decision to shorten the route & return direct missing out the Gargrave, Lothersdale & Skipton loop was made. It was then an easier wind assisted ride back with all going smoothly until Glynn's chain broke at Askwith. Speedy repairs were made & from here 3 people returned via Fewston while the other 5 opted for another café stop at Cockpit Farm before heading home. In spite of the weather a good ride of approx. 67 miles in good company.

Jill



