

Sunday, July 8, 2012

Wheel Easy Ride Report 323



Short Ride Report

What a fabulous ride, sun shining, some testing hills, new riders, returning riders, and a lovely café stop. Eleven ladies and David, our minder cycled up to the top of the world with the promise of a stop at the Honey Farm at Braythorne. We were welcomed like royalty, it was warm and sunny as new and old friendships were discovered as the noise levels became higher and higher. We were treated to Sarah's scones, honey bread and gooseberry cake. This is a great café stop if you can work it in to a ride. Well done to all the riders, a hilly climb out of North Rigton but everyone smiling and conversation at full tilt throughout. Thanks to Sue and David for helping to shepherd our flock and home in good time for Federer-Murray game. 16 miles. Gia

Medium Ride Report

There were a lot of takers for the medium ride, some in a 'hurry for Murray' and his epic encounter with the Swiss maestro starting at 2pm and others keen to get home in time to watch as much as possible of today's Stage of Le

Tour. So we broke up into 3 groups, of which I 'led' the slowest, except where Caroline's right took precedence over my left, or when I was out-voted by Paul and Steve on the café stop. Of course, it all worked out fine in the end. We were joined in Burn Bridge for a while by Flying Bananas refugee Jonathan, sensibly preferring our 9.30 start to theirs several hours earlier. Diane was a revelation after her and Eric's foreign cycling holiday, speeding along the flat and battling with studied determination up every hill. It was hard to credit that she, Neeta, Jennifer and Ruth only recently signed up for Paul's start cycling course. Wetherby came and went in a flash, but Bramham didn't. Somewhere on the A1 cycle path things went slightly awry and we only got as far south as Clifford, but Caroline G, her instincts for directions and leadership springing into action, guided us back to Boston Spa and Thorp Arch along a lovely lane which certainly wasn't on the prescribed route. As we entered Wetherby on the cycle path we stopped at the splendid new archway. Right on cue the fast group, who had done several miles more than us, arrived to make a good photo even better. I think they were expecting us to join them at North Street Deli, but instead we slipped into the Wetherby branch of a national chain which shall remain nameless, but which serves a rather good large coffee in the biggest 2 handled mug most of us have come across. Even better, Caroline B found that her daughter and son in law were by coincidence already there so we sat on the next table, admiring her very gorgeous baby grandson. Not wanting to risk getting Paul's bike dirty on the Spofforth path after the recent downpours, we took a 50 mile detour through Little Ribston to Follifoot where some headed for Pannal while 4 of us carried on round Rudding Park, through the Showground where preparations were well advanced for the annual jamboree starting on Tuesday, and up That Hill to Hookstone and Hornbeam. Malcolm

It all looked so easy. Large turn out for medium ride so Gruppenfuhrer Malc volunteered myself and El B to lead a middle group (not so fast-not so slow) and provided the all important, neatly typed route. Well after perfect planning, * poor execution followed (* insert appropriate adjective). Seven of us set off and arrived at Wetherby by way of Kirby Overblow (where we picked up Sue T). Here we somehow put the route into reverse ending up at Boston Spa via the Wetherby cycle path. After "un besoin naturel" stop we proceeded to Bramham and Collingham before returning to Wetherby where, due to a variety of constraints, we split (amicably) into smaller groups before returning along the cycle path to Follifoot and home. Sorry we were so bad Malc but it was fun in the sun. 8 x 34 miles. Max

Medium Plus Ride Report

A lovely, sunny Sunday morning! Six of us set off for Masham. By the time we got to Low Bridge two had dropped off to go with the touring pace group, so four carried on down Abbey Road and on to Ripon. We had a coffee stop at Masham where Mark Townend made a new friend as he was feeding him self the biggest ever slap of date and walnut cake (yes it was a dog from the table next to us). Returning to Ripon I had gear trouble so returned home. We also met up with Nick who was out on his own. A good ride and great company at an average speed of 18mph. Darren

Long Ride Report

The combination of a poor weather forecast, multiple sporting events on TV and a couple of regular riders away in Berwick upon Tweed led me to expect zero volunteers for the long ride to Helmsley. So I was pleasantly surprised when 5 of us left Hornbeam for an 85 mile jaunt across the vale of York to the western edge of the North Yorkshire Moors National Park and back across the southern part of the Vale of Mowbray. The weather remained perfectly dry, warm, and occasionally sunny. The wind treated us kindly and we were able to remain a cohesive group throughout the ride. All in all an excellent summer's day despite the dire forecast. Thanks to all. Phil



