

Sunday, August 5, 2012

Wheel Easy Ride Report 327



Wheel Easy welcomed several new riders on a warm sunny day. Once we receive their membership forms we may have over 300 members!

Short Ride Report

On a warm, sunny morning 21 enthusiastic riders arrived for the short ride. It was lovely to see new riders, returners and regulars. We decided to split up into groups of 7, having settled for the Knaresborough, Lingerfield round. Sarah and Jon set off with their group, closely followed by Lynda N and her 'team'. Our 'team' brought up the rear and headed off to Low Bridge. No sign of the others there, but we made brief contact on Chain Lane and agreed to meet at Riverside. It was a beautiful ride along leafy lanes and in sunshine! In no time at all we were back in Knaresborough to rendez -vous with the rest of the riders who were already tucking into to all sorts of 'goodies'. After a pleasant break with lots of chat, we were ready to tackle the final hill into Harrogate. Many thanks to Sara, Jon and Lynda for leading and to Ian for being both back-marker, mentor and coach.

21 X 18 miles- Alison N.

Medium Ride Report

Dennis led a classic medium ride to Stainburn Woods, Menwith Hill and High Birstwith. Two road races were taking place around Stainburn which gave us a glimpse of the speed of the peloton as it whooshed past us. The views on this ride are wonderful and whilst most rode back to Harrogate. A few stayed in Hampsthwaite for coffee at Sophie's. 25 mile ride and home without getting wet and in time to see Andy's wonderful win against Roger! Thanks Dennis for leading us on this lovely route. Gia

Medium Plus Ride Report

Everyone was revolting today, starting with Bill who immediately suggested an alternative, nicer, shorter route towards Burn Bridge and then set a challenging pace all the way to Wetherby allowing Helen to lead from the rear, picking up Rachel en route. The weather was benign and we scoffed at the weather forecast that had the temerity to suggest it might rain heavily in the afternoon and rolled merrily on along the A1 cycle path to Bramham. Alison had to retire at this point with technical problems (gears) and Gordon accompanied her back - which reduced Keith's group to 9. Helen still had 10 at this point. The temperatures rose, the wind was light and the terrain gently undulating as we whisked through Stutton, Ulleskelf, Ryther and Ozendyke to pause at Cawood Castle for the history lesson. Bet you didn't know that Cardinal Wolsey was the inspiration for Humpty Dumpty (a cruel reference to his rotund physique) and that the "great fall" was his fall from grace in the eyes of Henry VIII (and more significantly Anne Boleyn - women eh!). Some of Helen's group began to show revolting signs, despite the certainty of some pre-arranged hot roast sandwiches and roast potatoes awaiting them in Riccall at the Greyhound Inn. They fancied a swift return ride to get back for some Olympic viewing and to avoid the forecast rain (what pessimists) so Sir John and revolting others waved farewell at the lunch stop. Back to the sandwiches - they were excellent even though, much to Terry's horror, they came with gravy!! The staff at the Greyhound Inn were expecting us and were most welcoming and friendly. We were served by a charming, genuine buxom young lady. "Was she?" chorused Dave and Terry, "We hadn't noticed." We all disregarded the distant rumble of thunder as trifling and finally the two, now merged, groups picked up the Selby/York railway track to Bishopthorpe then onwards through Askham Bryan, Healaugh and Wighill. Terry then announced that he was revolting and fancied a cup of tea at the Thorp Arch Greenery - we unanimously agreed that we were all revolting (with the possible exception of Keith) and the whole group trooped in for tea and some rather luscious cakes. I'm sure I saw Jo with treacle tart and custard. Then it began to rain. At first it was quite amusing and the heavy, warm summer rain felt strangely pleasant. The rain continued and the

drops seemed larger and in no time at all we were really in quite deep water and began to wonder what the cycle path would be like. We soon found out. It was awash with water flowing steadily against us and although we felt relatively safe on the railway track, we could hear thunder and see lightening all around. Incidentally, we never saw Terry and Tim again after Wetherby. This has been noted and they will be shot as deserters. If they have in fact been abducted by aliens, then I apologise - to the aliens. We waved bye bye to Rachel in Spofforth - not because she was revolting but because she lives there! And just carried on. We did pause in a bus shelter in Follifoot because the thunder and lightening were actually crashing simultaneously round our ears but when the bus shelter filled with water, we pushed on. As predicted, entering Harrogate Show Ground was like going up Niagara Falls and by now we were really beginning to see the funny side of things! It was all quite exciting but everyone made it back in one piece and we had, in a perverse sort of way, enjoyed the battle with the elements and at least we all had warm dry homes to go to rather than having to pitch a tent. Arrived, sodden, at Hornbeam at 5.30 p.m. thoroughly revolting day and we enjoyed every one of the 62 miles. Helen & Keith

Long Ride Report

A fantastic turnout this morning, 14 riders left Hornbeam destined for the dreaded ascent from Lofthouse to Masham which according to the OS map is known as Trapping Hill. We even managed to pick up Colin near Markington but then lost 3 riders at Pateley Bridge - perhaps the lure Teacups cafe is too strong for some riders! The ascent itself was tough and long but the views were great and everybody seemed to feel a sense of achievement at getting up there. The run towards Masham was a great reward for the hard work but made a little more tricky by lots of loose gravel and mud on the road. Masham was the designated lunch stop and it was taken sitting outside at Border House Teas with the ominous sounds of a rapidly approaching thunder storm. Indeed the approach was too rapid for James who had to leave without his cake; perhaps he'll be able to claim it next time we visit. The start of the rain caused to ride to split up into several groups heading home in different directions and at different speeds. I hope everyone was as fortunate as our group at avoiding the worst of the storms. The ride turned out to be only 64 miles as the return was shortened due to the weather. Phil S



