

Sunday, December 2, 2012
Wheel Easy Ride Report 344



Short Ride

My Met Office app predicted -1C at 9.30, a four layer day. Nine of us were undaunted by the temperature, perhaps drawn out of warm houses by clear blue skies. We rode out via the Squinting Cat to Beckwithshaw, and up to the Army Foundation College— no prizes for guessing our destination. After Sophie's it was up the hill to Killinghall, across to Knox, and then it was time for Malcolm's Wrinkle – turning left by the shop on Crab Lane into Hill Top Close. A success, we recommend it. Then Malcolm left us to check on progress on the Bilton-Ripley Cycleway - Job would be fretting at the delays by now - and the rest of wended our way to the Iron Bridge and home. Thanks to all for a very enjoyable ride, and to Malcolm for back marking. Justin





Medium Ride

Darren, our leader, sensibly decided to change the route from the heights of Brimham rocks to the lows of Boroughbridge, due to temperatures having nestled well below freezing for some days. We set off for Low Bridge after dividing into three groups, and then rejoined two of them at Knaresborough.....All the other groups seemed to be heading for Boroughbridge and we were swiftly mingled up with the medium plus groups who all jollily bid us good morning or chatted and then sped onwards. As we reached our turn off towards Boroughbridge we decided that the day was too glorious to abandon and we would do a little extra before we turned towards home. This came in the form of a sweep round Littlethorpe and Newby Hall which included a little extra exercise on the footbridge over the Ripon canal. and a final push to Tasty Snacks in Boroughbridge. Several other groups had been there before us but there were still goodies to be tasted and stuff to be tested. On the short speedy journey home, several riders sped off to carry out important tasks, but we met up with several medium plus groups, who seemed to have discovered a new route north-west of Ripon...Luckily one such meeting gave a nameless EG chance to order another pair of frilly leg warmers, which excited more than one of the cycling ladies and certainly made one person's day.....an order for clothing. At the

top of Knaresborough Hill which today seemed a little flatter the rest of the groups went their separate ways and I for one had my lunch on the table when I got home. Leek, potato and stilton soups...not too wet at all....Thank you all for a very jolly ride and back marker Sue I hope your leg is better. About 34 miles. Caroline G



Prudence and Caution were the key instructions this morning. The hillier ride planned for the day with its potential for hidden frosty patches was abandoned in favour of a flatter ride to Boroughbridge. The ride was split into two groups, the faster of which was led by Darren with a following of five; the second was led by Caroline with a following of nine. The route was Knaresborough, Farnham, Occaney, Bishop Monkton, Boroughbridge, Staveley, Knaresborough. At Knaresborough one rider decided to abandon leaving only five; by the time Farnham was reached most were concerned about various extremities succumbing to frostbite so it was decided that Bishop Monkton would be given a miss as would the left turn at Occaney (hills, valleys and potential ice). A left turn just before Staveley brought us to the pot-holed bridleway at Copgrove and then onto Tasty Snacks at BB. Through the window we espied Sir Searchalot Paul, awandering from Killinghall where, whilst awaiting the medium peloton had received news of

change and had followed a star to Tasty Snacks. The route home was uneventful but after hearing that the slower ride had reached BB we realised that they had carried out the plan in full. What could we do prevent ridicule Ahhm! Well at least food was on the table when they arrived home and when we were told that not only had they completed the ride but that they had even had the audacity to ADD a loop. We hang our heads in shame, Respect. Anyway, despite the cold we enjoyed ourselves and had a laugh. Thanks Darren for leading us. Max





Medium Plus Ride

Today I was leading the medium plus faster pace ride but before we even set off there were changes because due to the inclement weather I for one was not happy to be riding down Yorkes follie with ice on the roads so there was a change of route from the word go. Eight of us set off in the general direction of Ripon at a reasonable pace but quick enough to get you warmed up and keep you warm in the pleasant but still sub zero temperatures, as we rode along the river side I felt as though I was more involved in issuing ice alerts than ride leading, we stopped for a catch up at the top of Farnham hill and I said we would go trough Copgrove as apposed to turning left and crossing the little bridge. On the way to Ripon we reached a group decision to go to Spa gardens for an interim coffee and then we would have a proper stop at Boroughbridge but do to our predetermined route changing constantly we never made our stop at Boroughbridge because by then we had decided that we were going to Wetherby. We went through Aldborough and then Lower and Upper Dunsforth but unfortunately Geoff became a victim of the ice and took a tumble but thank fully no injuries but it was decided at this point we would return to Hornbeam by the most direct route. Although it was quite a cold morning the sun was shining and of course the company all made it a very pleasant ride, many thanks, Terry

A supplementary report to Dave and Terry`s Monster Modified Medium Plus Ride.

Monster because of the number of riders wanting to do it (must be your charm lads), and modified because of the weather. Because of the numbers a three way split was made. A brisk group with Terry B, a less brisk group with Dave S, and a slow, select six with Dave P. Out to Low Bridge and Farnham in sun and clear blue sky promising great cycling weather (and it was) quite rare this year. At Occaney Bill W won the downhill freewheeling competition (due to the bricks in his saddle bag). Ladies tend not to be competitive in this event, as success may result in them being given vouchers for weight watchers. Near Buton Leonard a posse of Poddlers was met with, and social intercourse then followed until the turn off for Littlethorpe which they took and headed for Boroughbridge. The select six then made for Ripon, Paul T only agreeing on condition he could have a quality caffeine fix, his choice of venue was Caffè Nero, a venue not frequented by DP, who thought it sounded like they indulged in a bit of Fiddlin and Arson whilst having their coffee. Fortunately on arrival the cafe was found not to be ablaze, but packed out with Wheel Easy`s finest. Dave S then departed with his group, leaving the select six sitting in the window seats in the hot sun, two of the older members trying hard not to doze off. Then it was out of Ripon to Sharow and Marton-le-Moor (a nice little village which impressed Gia and Paul T). At Boroughbridge toilets and/or coffee was offered, however this was declined so it was straight back to Harrogate still in the sun with still blue sky (perfick). With a final meeting with the Poddlers at Forest Lane Head. Total mileage around 40miles, lets hope this weather continues to Wednesday.
Dave



My first conversation on arrival at Hornbeam this Sunday was with Terry, who straightaway announced that "He wasn't for going down the Folly today". I did not demur, and the decision was quickly made to have an easy ride to Ripon, Boroughbridge, and home. It must have been the right decision; more than twenty others were assembling to join us. Dave P stepped forward as third ride leader and off we went. The North Yorkshire countryside was cold and beautiful; we were reminded, once again, how lucky we are. Cafe Nero was nominated by democratic process (Martin wanted to go) and we all squeezed in to enjoy elevenses and a much needed warm. Dave P's group followed us in, and they too were accommodated after some shuffling from the civilian customers. We eventually potted off via the Marton-le-Moor ski slope, (no casualties) and enjoyed a gentle ride home through Knaresborough for an early bath. Thanks for the company of Helen, Yvonne, Monica, John, Kevin, Martin, and Rob, and Julie and Steve, whom we swallowed up after they defected from the faster group. Dave S.



Long Ride

Beautiful day but not the roads for Scar House, so four set off and adhoc some of the route to suit the conditions. Paul B waiting vainly for others declined to join us. Surprisingly High Grantley upto Harpur Hill was unknown to most as possibly was the later detour through Blazefield before lunching quietly at the auction mart as other WEs route rides had dropped Pateley. The worst road conditions were melting ice to Glasshouses then to Burnt Yates, Markington and Lingerfield and home early for Knaresborough Castle fireworks. A fine 55miles with great weather and in spite of the low temperature range -1 to +4 warm feet as no wind. Richard.

