

Sunday, December 23, 2012

Wheel Easy Ride Report 347 and Boxing Day Rides

Seasons Greetings from Malcolm, Gia (chair), Terry (vice chair) and all the committee. Have a great holiday!

Boxing Day Rides

EG Ride

The title of the Boxing Day ride was "The Great Escape" or "The Revenge of the Christmas Pud". A small group of Wheel Easy Wednesdayers had been seen at Hookstone Carpark and we only had three escapees at Low Bridge. Some were suffering from the trauma of having their traditional post Christmas Dinner sleep off interrupted with things like "wake up Grandad". The three escapees then headed for Ripon via Bishop Monkton. Before the Occaney freewheel competition Dave S got his excuse in (rather like Willy John McBride who got his retaliation in first on a Lions tour), "if I win its down to my Wonder Wheels", no mention was made of an excess of turkey or Christmas pud. The winner was of course Dave S, closely followed by Bob, with a smug Dave P well behind. This was to lead to a discussion throughout the day, on the specific gravity of pud and turkey, increased wind resistance caused by expanded waist lines and the viscosity of wheel lube. What hills there were reminded us of turkey and pud. Coffee was taken at Sainsbury's cafe (Spa Gardens Cafe now being closed for their long break). Then it was back home via Skelton on Ure and Boroughbridge, Dave S doing a great job in setting the exact pace the two less fit riders could manage (1 mph faster and we would have died). A good days cycling, back in Harrogate for 1-30pm, dry and what wind there was, was pushed by Dave S. Condolences to those who could not manage to escape, the escape committee needs new ideas. Merry (what remains of it) Christmas and a Happy New Year. Dave P



Poddlers Ride

There were precious few (about 8) people who turned up at Hornbeam on what was quite a pleasant Boxing Day morning, and only two of those looked like Poddlers : Geraldine and I. The others were of the sleeker, faster, fitter, long-ride type of Wheel Easy! members (including one fellow on a fixie) and Terry. Discussions took place about which cafés might be open, and I think distant places like Ilkley and Masham were mentioned as possibilities. For reasons I don't really understand, Terry opted to come poddling, and he mentioned that he was sure that a particular café in Ripon would be open, so we considered that, but then there was a discussion about what wonderful value Morrisons in Wetherby was, and Terry had never been there, so we opted for that, thinking it very likely that it would be open. We headed out to Burn Bridge, the A61 towards Leeds and then left along Walton Head Lane, Kirkby Overblow, Sicklinghall and into Wetherby along Linton Lane. Morrisons was closed, the new-ish café next to the saddlers was closed and so was the one in the Shambles. Oh well, what was plan B? Terry suggested Costa Coffee on the main street, and it was open (for the first time on a Boxing Day, according to the notice in the toilet). After good coffee/tea we decided against the Harland Way (probably too muddy) so went back through Kirk Deighton, Little Ribston and Spofforth. We had heard that the road through

the Yorkshire Show Ground had been closed, but it was quite navigable on a bike. Terry left us along Hookstone Road to return to Hornbeam. About 23 miles. Joe & Geraldine



Phil's Ride

There were 5 riders for the alternative Boxing Day ride which set off with no greater plan than to follow the Wharfe. We headed off via Rudding Park and Kirby Overblow to Dunkeswick and then tootled along to Pool, Askwith, Otley and Ilkley. I had only caught fleeting glimpses off the leading duo during the ride and there was no sign of them when the trailing 3 eventually got to Ilkley but a quick call ascertained that they were comfortably ensconced in cafe Nero. Dave R and I preferred to risk carrying on to Bolton Abbey Tea rooms for a cuppa and indeed all the cafes were open at Bolton Abbey – must remember that for next year. We crossed the river by the wooden bridge at Cavendish Pavilions and returned back via Appletreewick, Stumpcross and Duck Street arriving back in Harrogate at 2:30 (well before the rain) having covered about 60 miles. A great way to spend Boxing Day morning. Thanks to all. Phil

Sunday 23rd Rides



Due to strong winds the short and medium rides were cancelled. However, this did not stop a fantastic turn out of members organising themselves into groups and making their own way to Knaresborough, Wetherby, Tadcaster, Boroughbridge and of course Sophie's (Hampsthwaite).



Joe's Ride

As forecast it was very windy, with strong gusts and some occasional rain. For Geraldine and me simply getting to Hornbeam across the Stray was interesting, and James reported that the gusts on the way from Knaresborough were unnerving. Despite the weather, there was a surprisingly large turn-out at Hornbeam. A sort of group decision was reached that the planned medium ride up to Little Alms Cliff would be too exposed and possibly dangerous, so we decided to go to Hampsthwaite and reassess the situation there from the comfort and shelter of Sophie's café. About 10 of us, including a tandem, set off across the Stray to Claro Road and over the railway bridge. At this point Ruth had a puncture, and so we gathered round to help mend it. Unusually for a modern bike, Ruth's rear wheel did not have a quick-release, but it had 15mm nuts, for which she did not have a spanner; fortunately, the festively-decorated James did. With the wheel and tyre removed, James set about looking for the cause of the puncture, and soon found a large (and I mean large) piece of glass sticking through the tyre; removing it required pliers and care to avoid cutting oneself. The hole in the tyre was such that it needed a patch on the tyre before putting the new inner tube in. In the meanwhile, most of the group decided to go on to Sophie's while the repair was effected. Eventually, four of us carried on

over Spruisty Bridge (where the beck was very full), across the A61 and up over the B6161 and down into Hampsthwaite. We passed Dennis coming up the hill, and he confirmed that the group were in Sophie's, which was heaving with Wheel Easy! members who had arrived by various routes. There was little enthusiasm for going further afield, so we returned to Harrogate the way we came, but this time with a strong following wind; it seemed as easy to climb out of Hampsthwaite up the hill as it had been coming down the hill into the wind. Joe



Paul's Ride

As there no medium ride I decided to take advantage of the situation and cycle to Wetherby to do some last minute Christmas shopping. Terry 'Our Guardian Angel' insisted I should not be cycling alone and quickly assembled a small group of six to accompany me to Wetherby. It was the usual route of Burnbridge, Kirkby Overblow and Sicklinghall. On reaching Wetherby Dave R had cycled ahead to catch up with the long ride and Peter and Rob headed off to Tadcaster. Terry, Neil, Sarah and myself headed to Costa. On the return journey we followed a fantastic rainbow through Little Ribston, Spofforth and home. It was hard going cycling into the wind but it did not seem to hinder

Terry! A successful 26 mile ride as well as a successful last minute Christmas shopping trip. Paul



Peter & Robert's Ride

Rob and I left the group at Wetherby and headed to York with a powerful tail wind. The river was flooded in the city but I had expected it to be higher. Morrison's was hell on earth but the breakfasts were fine. The return made a huge difference to our intentions to boast about our average speed but it didn't prevent Rob from hitting his goal of 6000 miles. The weather was superb despite its laggardly start. 55 miles. Peter B

We were part of Terry and Paul's gang and rode to Wetherby, we (Peter & Robert) decided it was too early for the Café Nero fix and carried on through Wetherby onto the B1224 to York, we had the wind behind us so made some very good progress! Arrived in York and in typical "visitor" fashion stopped on one of the bridges to watch the flood water. Hydration and calories were required so we headed off to Morrisons where we had coffee and hot food. We cycled through a bit of the flood water as we left York and set off via Askham Richard, Tockwith, Wetherby, Spofforth past Ridding Park and back to Harrogate. The ride back pace was affected by the head wind so it took us

a bit longer, that and the floods across the road we had to navigate! A good ride, really enjoyed by both. 53.5miles, so not sure if this is medium+ or long, parts of it would have better in a canoe! Robert



Long Ride

Nine of us left Hornbeam heading for Tadcaster, not a particularly glamorous destination but probably a good choice in the windy conditions. We had our first mechanical at Leeds Roadtraffic lights when a plastic bag got caught in my derailleur jamming the chain and back wheel. It took some time to extricate the bag and persuade the derailleur to start working properly but eventually we were back en-route. We then had another minor mechanical at Kirkby Overblow where Bob's bottle cage broke. Fortunately we soon resumed our, not very glamorous, route as we made our way through Linton, Collingham, Thorner, Scholes, Barwick in Elmet and Aberford but at least we were out, the sun was shining and most of the time the wind was favourable. We arrived at the cafe just after 12, enjoyed a pleasant lunch and then set off to struggle into the wind back to Harrogate. The ride to split up at Little Ribston as people made their way home by the most suitable route. A good ride, good company and I, for one, arrived home worn out by the battering received from the wind. Phil

