

Sunday, January 6, 2013

Wheel Easy Ride Report 349



Gia welcomed everyone and wished them a Happy New Year. She informed us about the tremendous work being done by Keith and Helen Tate. They have put together a programme of medium and medium plus rides for the next three months and are busy working on the Spring programme. This morning was the first of Keith and Helen's rides.



Short Ride

Quite a large group choose to go on the short ride today, so we set off towards Leeds Road where Jenny joined us. Unfortunately John was feeling unwell and left us at Ashville College so all in all 15 of us continued the ride along Whinney Lane through Beckwithshaw and up to little Armscliffe Crag. It was lovely to see the sun come out on the long pull up to Armscliffe. A lovely ride downhill, a turn right and then left and we saw the beautiful view over Fewston reservoir. I'm sure this sight

makes everyone glad they made the effort to get out of bed and come and join other Wheel Easy members for a ride. We then went over the dam and up to the Washburn Heritage Centre. Thankfully it was open and everyone could have a welcome hot drink and I'm sure many of us succumbed to the tempting cakes on offer. After a nice break we left the centre, proceeded along Pennypot Lane, passed the former site of Queen Ethelburgers school and on past the pine woods. After a stop for a short discussion the group then split into those wanting to go back into Harrogate and then some riders onto Knaresborough and others going towards Leadhall Lane and home. I think everyone enjoyed the ride especially when the sun managed to peek through the clouds. A ride of about 19 miles. Lynda







Medium Ride

The front half of the medium ride set off with seven individuals and one tandem. The weather was good and all the roads were open though wet in contrast to New Year's Day when the Bishop Monkton to Rocliffe road was closed due to flooding. After a café stop in Boroughbridge we headed south into the sun towards Great Ouseburn where I was so engrossed in conversation that I missed the turn to Marton resulting in a few extra miles. In Knaresborough the annual duck race had been re-scheduled through high river levels on New Year's Day though only Paul accepted my invitation to join in the festivities. We watched the launch of the ducks from High Bridge. After 20 minutes the leading ducks had yet to reach the bend in the river and Paul, unable to sustain the high level of excitement, had to leave. But not before I took the shot of him with Big Duck which I submit instead of a group photo as evidence that Wheel Easy! Members know how to have a good time. Ian

I think it needs to be mentioned that the pot holes and collapsed drain holes, on Hookstone Drive (or Road) and along Forest Moor Road to Low Bridge Knaresborough are enormous and so bad were they on Sunday, that Jen was thrown off her bike as she went into a drain hole that had collapsed and was spreading into the middle of the lane along the road. Luckily she had her hat pulled well down and only badly bruised her cheek bone.... and suffered various grazed bits and was extremely shocked. The pot holes and collapsed bits of the road are noticeable all over Harrogate and the surrounding villages, so take care they are spreading from the side of the road

into the middle of the road. Neil only managed to get rid of three other people, so making the group the correct size for a led cycling group.....35 miles in lovely almost sun, and a very pleasant coffee stop thus preventing us becoming involved with the Knaresborough Duck Race. Caroline





Medium Plus Ride

Twenty riders opted for the medium plus ride to Fountains and Brimham. The first group of Darren and Mark set off at a fast pace, followed by Sue and a group of nine which increased to twelve at Knox.. Bringing up the rear was a group of six. Sue and myself rode the route on Friday and really enjoyed the first of Keith and Helen's routes. It also gave us an opportunity to arrange refreshments at G&T's Ice Cream Parlour at Risplith. The route was Knox, Ripley, Markington, Fountains, Aldfield, Risplith, Brimham, Burnt Yates and Hampsthwaite. There are a few good hills on the route so my group requested to return on the downhill swoop to Ripley. An enjoyable ride for everyone. Paul

The leader set a steady pace which meant she was more often at the back of the pack as this was a hilly ride with 1845 elevation gained. Through Killinghall to Ripley and then we travelled on towards Fountains via Markington not the most familiar route to a familiar destination. Along to Grantley Hall via Aldfield again a route which was refreshingly new to most. The weather was warm and actually sunny one of the nicest days of the last month. The cafe stop was well situated at the top of a very long steep hill and the G and T ice cream cafe coped well with the waves of riders, they were pre-warned and had stocked up on tea cakes. Home via Brimham with views we don't normally see as we were going in the reverse direction to the norm. Misty at the top but back into sunshine as we cycled back to Burnt Yates, Hampsthwaite and home . A very pleasant ride and well worth reversing the direction of travel to provide new views. Sue Couture



Long Ride

The planned route for the long ride was causing some confusion among the potential riders this morning. Was it going up White Horse Bank? Was it going to Rievaulx Abbey. Was it going to Ampleforth? I was able to confirm that the suggested route was to Ampleforth, that Rievaulx should have read Byland and that we would not be going up the bank. Confusion over. No. Unfortunately Peter B had stoically set off early for the Glider Club cafe at the top of White Horse bank. Eric's attempts to contact him failed so, when we reached the right turn to Byland, Eric continued through the gathering fog and up the famous 1 in 4 climb. It seems Eric's suffering was well worth while for as he was sipping his 50p cup of tea enjoying the sunshine (which was apparently shining at the top of the bank) the rest of us were progressing with a merry flashing of LED's through the mist and gloom.

A pleasant lunch at Ampleforth was followed by a less pleasant puncture for Dan which he dealt with skilfully. We emerged from the fog at Easingwold and continued back Harrogate, led by Roger, at a suitable pace to get home before dark. A great turn out of 10 riders (11 if you include Peter) enjoyed a 65 mile ride in surprisingly mild weather with the usual good company and pleasant chatter. Phil

The Other Long Ride

I set off early to do the long ride with the possibility of meeting the main group. At Kilburn the White Horse beckoned and I went up the bank to the Gliding Club cafe. It was my first visit but won't be the last. Everyone was very friendly and not in a superficial way. I sat there watching the mist lift and the sun come out. Eric came up to meet me. We resumed our journey towards Rievaulx with the fog descending rapidly. Then through Helmsley, Oswaldkirk, Crayke, Easingwold where we managed a cup of tea at the old people's home. Wonderful ride, especially at this time of year and thanks to Eric for enacting the parable of the lost sheep-- 79miles. Peter Bradley



Maintenance Classes

Saturday saw the last of the current set of maintenance classes led by Colin, Joe and Kevin. Those who attended now know all about punctures, brakes, chains, gears and many more tips of useful information.

