

Sunday, February 3, 2013

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 353

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### Short Ride

Seven riders for the short ride today. We welcomed Christine on her first Wheel Easy ride and her friend Karen on her third. Following my favourite short ride down to Knox and along Grainbeck Lane and Crag Lane to Ripley. After braving the short section of the busy A61, we joined the nice quiet by-ways through to Lingerfield, Scotton and Scriven. We approached Knaresborough along Chain lane, then Abbey road. Four riders decided to fuel up with coffee before facing the hill back home. About 20 miles at a nice leisurely pace. Dennis B





### **Medium Ride**

By recent standards the weather today seemed warm, dry, bright with only light winds and a good cohort of Medium riders had turned out and, with great foresight, they were divisible by three. Hence, three groups of nine went out, led by Helen, Keith and Paul. Helen reassured the group that she was perfectly familiar with 98% of the ride route – so thanks to all of those who nodded sagely at a couple of junctions. Nothing strange happened and we followed the well worn track to Knaresborough, Farnham, Copgrove, bypassing Bishop Monkton and in the general direction of Ripon. Welcome to Louise a new member and friend of Rachael – one of them or 'tother had talked the other one into doing a triathlon so there was much brave talk of training and by the time we had passed Ripon Racecourse and on to Boroughbridge via Skelton on Ure, we could smell the coffee. Helen's group dived in to Gilchrist's for buns and banter and quite a few indulged in a Fat Rascal. Because of copyright problems and a complaint from Betty's these had been re-named on the blackboard as "Tubby Scoundrels". This caused a degree of confusion but we were soothed and reassured by the owner that the problem had in fact been resolved and we were free to order Fat Rascals again. I swear they have made them bigger and they didn't 'arf slow us down on the way to Roecliffe. The final leg took us down the surfaced bridleway to Copgrove and on to Knaresborough where we shed at least four of the original nine – only because they lived there, not because we actually lost them. And finally the last four girls, Helen, Debbie, Rachael and Louise made it to Hornbeam with the prospect of shopping in Sainsbury's. We clocked 34 miles on the on-board computer. Helen



Another group – of ten – adopted a leisurely approach to the route described above. We took a diversion through the back streets of Burton Leonard to enjoy the sights of the Ripon Rowel route and when we finally arrived in Boroughbridge we found that all the usual cafes were full (of cyclists!). However, resourceful group members discovered “Chez Nous”, opposite Craggs – a splendid small café with a useful sized front courtyard for storing bikes and sitting outside on better days. We enjoyed talking to colleagues from the Ripon Bike Club and the drinks and food were good and reasonably priced. Many thanks to Max for back marking. Keith

To avoid large numbers going in the same direction my group cycled the route the other way round. Michael, our member from London, joined us before he returns home tomorrow. We saw many cyclists on route but the two Wheel Easy groups we passed going the other way were certainly the happiest. It was a great ride but we found the wind particularly strong between Boroughbridge and Ripon. Thanks to Martin for back marking. Paul



### **Medium Plus Ride**

We all knew it was going to be a windy ride but we did not realise how windy until we had to pedal downhill at Little Almscliff and were then knocked sideways on the run down to Swinsty reservoir. Dave P and Bob had already decided on a stop at the Heritage Centre and the rest of us battled on past Fewston and through Timble. Here the inevitable happened, some of us buckled deciding that getting blown off the moor in to a car was not a risk worth taking and that the time we had taken to get this far meant we might not get back by dusk!. Wind assisted we flew back to the Heritage Centre. Those of sterner stuff promised our leader that they would report in when they got home and set off over the moor. The welcome and coffee and cake selection at the centre is excellent for anyone who hasn't been there and they have asked us to note that they are open on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wed of every month, 10.30-12.00. We cycled past the furniture mill which had sadly burnt down on Wednesday. We were home in double quick time, a great workout, great company and ready for our next ride. Thanks Terry as always for being our kind and considerate leader. Gia



### **Long Ride**

Setting off from Hornbeam Park to Kirkby Overblow with the wind at our backs it did not seem to be a bad day. When we turned westward towards the A61 in order to tackle Weardley Bank it became a different story with the wind continually in our faces. Even windier conditions were encountered on the top of Otley Chevin, followed by a brief respite as we descended into Otley. Then it was back into the wind tunnel for Cockpit Farm, Ilkely and Bolton Abbey. Despite the fact we were now heading north the wind still managed to be in our faces. The climb out of Appletreewick was made even harder by the wind. Once we joined the B6265 we were relieved to find that the wind was behind us, but even so a refuelling stop at Stump Cross Caverns was called for. Then with the dreaded wind behind us we flew down Duck Street and all the way back to Harrogate. Even though the ride was about 60 plus miles it was agreed that we had used up enough energy to do a normal 120 mile ride. Well done to the 5 riders who braved the conditions. Peter J