

Sunday, March 3, 2013

Wheel Easy Ride Report 357



Short Ride

At long last, a Sunday that felt more like Spring than Winter. On the face of it we were a mixed group of 15, including regular riders opting for a shorter day out, familiar faces returning after a break, and new rider David. But we all made good progress, out to Beckwithshaw and on to Sophie's. We didn't see any lambs - indoors, or a couple of weeks too early? - but the daffodils will be out by next weekend if it warms up just a little. After the customary splendid coffee - and bacon rolls for some - it was up the hill to Lund Lane, Grainbeck Lane, Knox and home. Thanks to all for the excellent company. Justin

Medium Ride

Quite a crowd for the Medium ride so it was split into three with this, the slightly faster lot, going first. We sped out via Follifoot and Spofforth to Wetherby and, it being too soon for a cafe stop, we continued towards Thorp Arch and then headed towards Bramham. Neil decided that the proceedings needed livening up (I think) and took us on a mini diversion UP A HILL. It was supposed to be a flat ride, matey. Another Neil, new to WE, was trying out a right fancy bike - it had those two sticky out things on the handle bars. I think they're used for giving someone a lift. There's no cafe in Bramham, unfortunately, and the one in Collingham is closed on Sundays, so it was back to Wetherby for refreshment. We had to vacate the place to make way for one of the other rides at which point 9 became 5, taking the prescribed route back via Sicklinghall and Kirby Overblow. No wind, no rain, no cold, so a good day for these 34 miles. Paul B (Can I have a break next week, please?)



The Medium hindmost (though not necessarily slowest) group set off at a steady pace with eight riders. We reached Spofforth with relatively little effort and then dodged dogs and their walkers on the Harland way to Wetherby. After a little discussion over the route in Clifford, we reached Brimham and then climbed out to Collingham, enjoying the views on the way. At Linton, we took a detour to Wetherby for a coffee and cake stop. Then much fortified, we got back to Harrogate via Sicklinghall. A great ride in good cycling conditions and good company, evidenced by the amount of chatting during the ride. I'm sure people could hear us before they could see us! Al Davies



Twelve riders set off towards Rudding Park via the showground, where we met quite a bit of traffic. Before we made our way to Follifoot, Glyn caught us up making our total 13. Hopefully that number wasn't going to be an omen, but just after I had done a head count, I ungraciously fell off my bike! We made good progress on our route through Spofforth, Harland Way, Wetherby and then the cycle path towards Thorp Arch. When we came to Boston Spa, we had a welcome stop for refreshments, calls of nature and a group photo in the artistic sculpture outside the library. There

was a bit of confusion when we set off, as I had reced one route to Bramham, but others set off on the obviously well cycled Wheel Easy route. Not to worry – I now know 2 good routes to follow from there, although Sally and I did have a mutter about dissension in the ranks! Making our way through Bramham, Collingham and Linton, we arrived back at Wetherby where 8 of us went for a coffee stop at North Street Deli. Onward and homeward after that via Sicklinghall and Kirkby Overblow and back to the showground where we were greeted by an interesting procession of VW vehicles, part of the Spring Dub VW Show. We parted company shortly after that and all agreed that it had been a good ride in favourable conditions and convivial company as always. Monica. 33 miles.

Medium Plus Ride

About 16 of us joined Terry for the advertised ride to Ilkley and we all enjoyed the journey out to Cockpit Farm "the other way round". We met dozens of cyclists out today, one group looking very like a Wheel Easy group which felt very familiar. We had a good break at Cockpit Farm our first of the season. Robert and Peter carried on to Ilkley with Robert keen to add in Langbar, their route then to be Bolton Abbey and Stumps Cross. Rachel and Louise set off home on their own route while the rest of us chose to return via Askwith and Timble where we passed a very well supported Claro Orienteering event. A great ride, lots of good hills and home in time for lunch. Thanks Terry for as always being our chivalrous leader. Gia



Rob and I left the main group and went to Ilkley and up to Langbar and Bolton Abbey for coffee. We sat outside watching the world go by and planning our next stage. Decided to head for Burnsall and then Appletreewick where Rob peeled off to return to Bolton Abbey and hilly points south. I then adopted a more sedentary mode to Greenhow where I was just in the snow line (see photo). Lovely ride -- it's good to know that something remains constant. 61miles. Peter Bradley



Long Ride

Where were the long ride regulars ? , only 3 showed up. However it's quality that counts and we had that in abundance. We reached Masham too early for lunch so continued north passing snow patches on the high ground after Ellingstring and just before that superb descent to Jerveaux. The opening of the much renovated and improved Tea Room at Thorpe Perrow had been brought forward to accommodate our visit and I recommend it. From there it was a quick dash home via Wath and Ripon showing 66 miles from Hornbeam and back and a little further for the country members. A good day for cycling, and thanks for the company. Peter Roberts