

Sunday, March 10, 2013

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 358

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### Short Ride

A small group of 7 hardy riders coasted off from Hornbeam Park at a gentle pace to enjoy the morning ride, with the weather cold and occasionally threatening a dump of the dreaded white stuff! Our route took us to Knaresborough via Hookstone Road and Forrest Lane Head to Calcutt. We stopped for re-grouping at Low Bridge, before letting a faster Wheeleasy group through and continuing along Abbey Road to enjoy once more the spectacular wood carvings, which never cease to amaze! Left turn to Chain Lane and under the bridge to pick up Water Lane by the new estate, for the second section of off road. At the right turn to Boroughbridge Road, G. left us to head back to Harrogate, whilst we turned right followed by a left towards Farnham. Left at the T junction to pass through Scriven, where some Daffodils were spotted by the wayside struggling to make an early appearance! Eventually, a left turn at the little school to Lingerfield and a loop back to Knaresborough via Old Scriven, where we re-grouped to decide whether there was sufficient interest in coffee and cake. Alas! T was not to be, for various reasons, (namely the lure of home and warmth!). Ah well! Back to Harrogate via Knaresborough Road and Bogs Lane with various folk peeling off as they needed. An enjoyable morning with good company as always, in true Wheel Easy style! Sarah E



### **Medium Ride**

The forecast heavy overnight snow had not materialised, but it was snowing very lightly on the way to Hornbeam, with a stiff-ish north-easterly wind which threatened to get stronger and colder as the day went on. Of the surprisingly large turnout at Hornbeam more than 20 opted for the medium ride, which was supposed to go to Ripon, Fountains Abbey, *up* the deer-park road and back via Shaw Mills, Birstwith and Hampsthwaite. However, the weather, wind and the fact that it was Mothering Sunday, combined with Dave Preston's residual sciatica persuaded us to shorten the route. Four hardy souls decided to do the full ride, and set off, whilst the remaining 18-or-so split into 2 groups with Dave Preston and Sue Welham taking the second group. We followed the web-site route to Low Bridge, Farnham, Occaney, left over the bridge to Copgrove and Bishop Monkton, but a sobering heavy snow shower persuaded us not to continue to Ripon, and we turned left in Bishop Monkton towards Markington, missing out Fountains altogether. Having crossed the A61 at Cascades Garden centre we went straight through Markington towards the crossroads I know as the Drovers, but, as Max pointed out, there is now no sign of the Drovers, and someone has landscaped the site, having planted some bushes and shrubs. We considered going straight over the crossroads to Hampsthwaite and the attractions of Sophie's, but we all turned left and down the hill into Ripley, as it is shorter. In Ripley we saw evidence of the new cycle way, and also near the old Nidd bridge, although it is not yet tarmaced. Back via Knox Ford, missing out the Crawford Bypass, past the park and children's playground on the joint footpath/cycle path, over Dragon railway bridge and then following 'Max's Wiggle' through the houses to Skipton Road. By the time we got home, the sun was shining...About 24 miles. Joe



A strange weather forecast, sunshine and snow showers, but strange weather is not new to us. The Medium ride was split in to smaller groups, ours being the slowest and last away. Our group of nine consisted of three ladies, Caroline, Liz P and Sue W. One recycled teenager i.e. Dennis, a 60`s pop duo i.e. Peter and Gordon, and three EG`s i.e. Bob, Dave P and Roy. The intended route was to Farnham and Ripon however we were to leave our options open at Bishop Monkton. The downhill freewheel competition to Occaney was won by a lady (who shall be anonymous) very apt in the year of the woman. At Bishop Monkton the snow clouds to the East looked threatening so it was hang a left and on to Markington. At the Ripley road crossing, Bob and Roy succumbed to caffeine call of the Siren Sophie and headed for Hampsthwaite. The remainder to Ripley, where Gordon suggested a diversion on to the Ripley cycle path (good call). Now the sun was out, and so were the people using the path. Cyclists and walkers, and one group who looked like Mum & Dad, Children and Grandma all on bikes. A credit to all those people whose tenacity and hard work made this possible. Then in to Harrogate (cyclepath a much safer route). A cafe stop had not been made, but the kind offer of one at Carolines house was gladly taken. Excellent coffee and cake was made better with nice single malts from Max. A great improvement on ibuprofen and paracetamol as a painkiller and much better tasting, should be on prescription. Around 26 miles in surprisingly good conditions. Dave P





### **Medium Plus Ride**

The 38 mile route took the group of seven to Kirkby Overblow, Collingham, Thorner, Bramham, Boston Spa and coffee in Wetherby. It was a cold morning and the pace was faster than usual. Mike B back from Florida was trying to keep warm. Rachael H was training for the End to End and Ian was on his Brompton training for the World Championships. We returned home via Little Ribston and Spofforth. Paul



### **Long Ride**

The weather forecast had been looking decidedly poor for today as seven people set off on the long ride heading towards Ripon with a plan to review the proposed route as we went along. At Ripon it was no worse so we carried on as planned to Galphay, Kirkby Malzeard, Grewelthorpe & Masham. Here we had quick consultation & all agreed to carry on the extra few miles to a new café for a Wheel Easy ride, High Parks Tearooms at Newton Le Willows. The route back took us

towards Bedale, past Thorp Perrow, through Well & back to Ripon & Harrogate. It turned out to be a much better day than expected & it was a good ride of just over 60 miles. Jill