

Sunday, March 31, 2013

Wheel Easy Ride Report 361





Sue, Jill and John's Medium + Jaunt

For personal reasons, both Jill and I wanted to do about 50ish FLAT miles today. Having arranged to do this the previous Sunday with the Beningbrough Hall ride, the snow soon put paid to that idea! So, Easter Sunday we set off on the Wheel Easy route to York Racecourse. We found ourselves being accompanied by Sur John who attempted to find Jill's mysterious squeak (on her bike!) but having tried a couple of things, decided it was perhaps coming from the seat post! It was still a bit nippy and the wind mostly in our faces but we pressed on to Long Marston for a quick stop before tea and coffee flasks stop by The Millennium Bridge. Here, Sur John parted company to speed back to Harrogate whilst Jill and I enjoyed the wind from the side and strangely sun in our faces! I think I may have even caught the rays on my face. Thanks for the company today both of you. Both missions of 50 miles accomplished. Now then I think it's time for that chocolate Easter egg. Sue T





Medium Plus Ride

Seventeen left Hornbeam in two groups heading for Dallowgill Moor via Hampsthwaite and Brimham Rocks. The front runners led by Terry, soon disappeared over the horizon, while the rest followed at a more sedate pace. It was a bracing morning, but Clint Bank soon got the juices flowing. The sun obliged us as we crossed the still snowy Dallowgill Moor and the views were splendid. Coffee stop was the Sun Parlour at Spa Gardens, where the outside tables were not popular. At Martin's suggestion, we took an alternative route back to take in the newly opened cycle route from Ripley to Bilton. All were truly impressed by this marvellous new facility which was already thronged with Easter promenaders, suicidal dogs and even horses. David W 46 miles









Long Ride

Eight riders set off from Hornbeam Park in the direction of Brimham Rocks. The planned route took us through Hampsthwaite and up Clint Bank to Burnt Yates, but after planning the route on Friday, it had been announced that the Nidderdale Greenway (aka Bilton to Ripley Cyclepath) was now open, so we decided we should make first use of the new facility. We were all most impressed with the new path, even though there is a small amount of work-in-progress still to be completed. Well done Sustrans - and all our local campaigners, of course! It has been well worth the wait. We joined the A61 by Killinghall Bridge where a Pelican crossing is being installed, but it looks as if when this is finished we would be able to go across the road and continue on another path through the fields into the village (or is this just a footpath?). From Ripley we then climbed Whitley Bank (who thinks up these names?) to Bedlam and rejoined our original planned route at Burnt Yates. Onwards and upwards to Brimham Rocks, where the snow was still lying in deep drifts, made even deeper by the snow ploughs. With the sun shining and lots of snow, the views from Brimham Rocks, Pateley Moor and High Bishopside were simply stunning. I can't remember

Nidderdale area ever looking better. So our progress had to be halted several times for photos before the steep descent into Wath, past Gouthwaite Reservoir and Lofthouse to How Steen Gorge café for refreshments. Our second session took us back down Nidderdale to Pateley Bridge and then the climb up Yorke's Folly into the snow belt once again. After the later climb up from Blubberhouses towards Timble most of us were beginning to feel the effects of the bad weather of February and March which had seriously reduced our recent mileages so we decided to wimp out and abandon the planned route to Askwith Bank, Otley and Almscliffe Crag. We took the short-cut home via Fewston and Penny Pot Lane, arrived home at 3.30pm, having covered 53 miles and climbed 4,300'. Not as much as we had planned, but more than enough for us all today! Eric



