

Sunday, January 11, 2015

Wheel Easy Ride Report 454

Short Ride

On a particularly blustery day, only a small group of enthusiastic established members met at Hornbeam today. A group of ten opted to join us on a low level short ride which felt like a far longer one! We welcomed back James and Kevin. Guided by John we took the most direct route through Harrogate to the Greenway and stopped to have a photo with Malcolm. The Greenway was quiet apart from a few frisky dogs. Strong gusts greeted us in Ripley so we stuck together and made steady progress through the woods to Clint Bank where John left us to head to Birstwith and the rest of us headed to Sophie's for coffee. A long conversation ensued informing Richard about all the wheel easy coffee stops and necessary characteristics for them to become favourites. Then home via Knox and over the Stray. Thanks to everyone for their company and good humour. (15 miles)

Nicky & Graham



Hornbeam meet



Long Ride

There are few attractions in the world as fine as Ramsgill on a cold wet day, and to find 3 other people happy to share this experience is nothing short of amazing. The route seemed perfectly suited to the weather conditions as to head North/South would have been foolhardy in the strong cross winds and to go East would have meant unremitting wind on the way home. The steep sides of Nidderdale provide a lot shelter for the cyclist and so it proved today. The rain is a different matter and that began, as Gia forecast, at 10.57. Mark left us shortly after but the rest of us carried on to How Stean Gorge arriving rather wet at 12:00. The café was warm and welcoming and a bit of struggle to leave, but the rain had eased and my promise to miss out Yorke's Folly dispelled any reluctance to go. A quick blast down the valley and along the main road from Pateley to Ripley proved quite pleasant in the drying conditions although the rain began again at Ripley. Today was the first time that my much admired (ridiculed) fluorescent yellow overshoes have been tested in heavy rain and I can report that they are purely decorative. I had already discovered that they have little effect at keeping my feet warm and I now know they have zero water resistance. At some point this evening feeling will return to my toes and then I'm sure I'll be able to hail the ride as a great success. Thanks to the brave souls who turned out and encouraged me to carry on. PS

