

Sunday, July 2, 2006

Wheel Easy! Ride Report No. 9



Shorter ride

Due to new members our group was considerably larger than it had been in previous weeks. Our original plan was to head for Knaresborough, however due to the size of the group and the heat we cut it short.

We rode to the end of Hornbeam Park and onto the track to Fulwith Mill Lane, then made our way through the Firs Estate, and via Green Lane to Whinney Lane and Lady Lane.

We crossed Otley Road, past Harlow Carr Gardens then through the Pinewoods to the Valley Gardens, and came out onto Cornwall Road outside the Sun Pavilion.

Due to the weather conditions Andy offered a water stop at his flat on Franklin Road, where we all replenished our water bottles. We then continued through town to Asda and joined the cycle path all the way to Bilton Hall Drive.

We then travelled along Bogs Lane, Kingsley Road and onto the Stray at Granby Corner. From here the group started to split and head their separate ways home. The ride was approximately 16 miles.

SM

Longer ride

Apologies for the tardy report of last Sunday's glorious ride to Ripon. The web whizz has been visiting in-laws and is now recovering from an op to remove an epigastric hernia which means no cycling for up to 6 weeks!

Phil Hall led the ride taking us out of Harrogate through quiet roads and bike paths to the Ripon Road and to Ripley, introducing us to a long quiet lane in Killinghall which cuts off part of the busy A61.

Phil teased us by announcing there was a hill to climb but no one grumbled as it was almost the only significant hill of the day and nothing compared to the hills Martin Weeks gives us on a Wednesday! The climb out of Ripley is gradual and gave us good views all the way towards Fountains Abbey. We turned off at Watergate Road (just before dropping down to the Abbey) and then into Whitcliffe Lane, a wonderful off road route into Ripon.

There we checked out the Spa Café in the Ripon Gardens which was full of cyclists from Northallerton and after some discussions decided to head straight back to Harrogate. Dave with his local running knowledge led us along parts of the canal and then through the villages of Littlethorpe, Bishop Monkton, Copgrove, Farnham and on to Knaresborough.

Malcolm came back separately with our new friends from Poland, Lucy and Bram, who are the subject of this week's photo!

It was an excellent ride, with riders completing about 35 miles on our finest sunniest day yet. Thanks Phil for the ride - he still has several more up his sleeve. This Sunday is one of them, a ride to Boston Spa.

GM