

Sunday, July 23, 2006

Wheel Easy! Ride Report No. 12



After the heatwave of the last few days today was sunny and warm with a cooling breeze which was very refreshing. A total of 24 riders turned up for the first Wheel Easy! extra long leisurely bike ride which promised up to 42 miles with shorter cut off points, but in fact proved nearer 50 miles for some.

Dave Preston led today's ride heading out to Knaresborough on to Wetherby and Boroughbridge. We set off in stages. Phil and Crawford led two groups to Knaresborough each trying to set a record for the most interesting route. Dave and his buddies set off last after repairing his puncture but of course they arrived first.

We managed to make a pig's ear of completing this simple bit of the ride and after several mobile calls (in the worst area for reception) we all met at the end of Abbey Road. Well nearly all. We lost one but thankfully he was found and reminded us of the need to keep together as a group.

Arriving in Wetherby it was mooted that we might stop at Morrison's for a cuppa but anarchy prevailed and we decided on a comfort break instead. So of course all the ladies head for the loo and naturally one is out of order. Not everyone hears the change of plan about the stop and as Captain Phil sits waiting patiently for us all to return two of the group are contentedly supping tea and cake!

We think we might get home before dark, Dave says as long as he is home in time to get to work at 6.00 a.m. on Monday he is fine!

We bike along the bike path out of Wetherby along the racecourse and on to Walton where Gia and Dave decide to have a burn and nearly end up losing Sarah and Jane but they are too quick witted to let us out of their sight. Dave seems to be having trouble with a pedal but whenever he wants he just effortlessly cruises past us all.

At the turn for Cowthorpe, four of us decided to head back to Harrogate and the rest carried on to Great Ouseburn and Boroughbridge where they stopped for lunch. Many will have covered at

least 45 miles or more which is a great achievement for those who began 12 weeks ago fairly cautiously. It was a beautiful day and great to be out on the bike.

Well done to Sarah Everson who joined Sustrans for a day for the inaugural ride along the new Hadrian's Cycleway. Also she did an Audax ride a couple of weeks ago. Gia is off to do the C2C tomorrow, it will be a hot few days ride.

Do let Sarah E know if you want to join the Great Milk Stout Ride in September and if you have any biking stories or trips to report please share them.

GM