

Sunday, August 20, 2006

## Wheel Easy! Ride Report No. 16

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The start of today's action was a little later than usual, due to animated discussion of the latest episode of the debate in the local paper about allowing cycling on The Stray. Members added their names to a petition supporting this, which would enable children to enjoy traffic free cycling around much of the town centre.

Four cyclists with limited time available set off for a short ride to Beckwithshaw and surrounding countryside, and to see a pond with resident newts, while 19 riders headed east along Forest Lane to Abbey Road, Knaresborough. This group included new members Brian and Liz, who were warmly welcomed along with their tandem.

After crossing the A59 at St James Park, the group dropped left over the old wooden bridge and along the track to Goldsborough, then turned north and after a short stretch of A59 continued north to Flaxby, Coneythorpe and Arkendale. This was the cut off point for four riders who wished to take a quicker route back to Harrogate.

More quiet roads and fine scenery took the remainder to Marton cum Grafton, and then through Aldborough to Boroughbridge, and a light lunch in the peaceful garden of a café which was also feeding a more lycra clad (and therefore presumably faster) group of cyclists from York. Between us, we drained the café of its entire stock of bacon, but survived on a selection from the rest of the menu. A few more riders returned from here to Harrogate.

The remaining nine were led by Bill Whale who took us on a fine new route out of Boroughbridge to Ripon, over a bridge into Dallamires Lane and then through Littlethorpe. A superb country road led down to Bishop Monkton and Copgrove, and so to Knaresborough. We took the testing cycle path up the hill alongside the main road and then enjoyed the easy run along Bogs Lane to Kingsley Drive and through Silverfields Road to The Stray with riders gradually peeling off to take their own route home.

Finally, after a short visit to the supermarket and a welcome cup of tea at some friends, we returned home, a round trip of 42 miles.

Sunday's rides include the monthly extra long ride which will be up to 50 or so miles via Brimham Rocks, with cut offs for those who wish to do an intermediate distance.

