

Sunday, August 27, 2006

Wheel Easy! Ride Report No. 17



Malcolm led the short ride with seven riders, all on their maiden Wheel Easy! outing. We went first to Stray Rein, the location for next week's action to support safe cycling on the Stray, just in case anyone turned up a week early. This was a good decision as two families did, and they were pleased to be included in our ride photo with one of the contentious 'No (now repainted 'Go) Cycling' signs.

We then followed one of the classic Wheel Easy! routes, including Silverfields Road, Bogs Lane, Bilton Hall Drive and round via the Bilton Triangle to Asda. At the Victoria Avenue roundabout Jean took her direct route home, and as the weather was so fine, the rest of us added a slight extension up Beech Grove and The Oval, then via St. George's Road using the cycle path to Rossett Drive, and finally the Mallinsons and down Fulwith Mill to join the track to Hornbeam Park. A very pleasant 12 miles.

MM

Phil and Paul led a group of seven to Beckwithshaw and through Moor Park to Little Almscliff Crag. Following the track through Stainburn Woods the riders were soon enjoying the spectacular scenery on the way up to (big) Almscliffe Crag. Continuing to North Rigton, they climbed up to the junction above Burn Bridge before the coast down into the village and return to Harrogate.

PH

BRIMHAM AND OVER THE MOORS FOR LUNCH

The advertised ride of 50 miles encouraged a strong group of 11 Riders to set off from Hornbeam on a Dales and Vale of York ride. It was pleasing to see several people I had not met before (my apologies but I can't remember everyone's name), who turned out to be strong riders.

Going out of Harrogate via Oakdale Bridge we climbed and then dropped down to Hampsthwaite in Nidderdale before the long steady climb up through Clint Bank and Burnt Yates to Brimham rocks. We stopped at the top of the hill and enjoyed the views, and the views remained spectacular from Brimham Rocks, over the rough track towards Dallowgill, past the Drovers and

then down in Laverton.

After this, we headed for Kirby Malzeard and the planned lunch stop. The Rose Lea Café, was open but it turned out that we were very fortunate as it is now only open on Bank Holiday Sundays. After a good stoking up with tea and a variety of tasty lunches, we headed down to Ripon with the wind behind us.

At this point we met Malcolm, heading in the opposite direction after leading the Easy Ride. He had decided that the fabulous sunny and breezy day was not to be missed and he did our route in reverse - Malcolm therefore covered 62 hilly miles, no mean achievement.

Despite my promising a "get you home" treat at Bishop Monkton, sadly the ice cream shop was closed so we sailed through this pretty village crying our eyes out, and headed home to Knaresborough and Harrogate, hot showers, and large glasses of wine (well I did anyway).

As some of you may know, Yvonne is out of commission due to having a fight with a car, so I told her it was a truly awful ride, and she didn't miss anything at all. The rest of you who completed the ride and all the hills magnificently, are sworn to secrecy, (especially as it was our wedding anniversary!).

MW



