

Sunday, September 3, 2006

Wheel Easy! Ride Report No. 18



The day began with some anxiety because of the very changeable weather and the possibility of a poor turnout for the Stray demonstration, but our efforts were rewarded with a fine spell of weather and a huge turnout of some 250 cyclists of all ages. It was fantastic to be part of the event.

Many Wheel Easy! riders met at Hornbeam and rode up to Stray Rein announcing themselves by ringing their bells. After photographs, speech and radio interview we dispersed for our regular Sunday ride. Eighteen set off on the short ride led by Crawford and Sarah with Steve helping out too. Twenty of us rode to Otley via Kirkby Overblow, Dunkeswick, Weeton, Castley and Pool.

The route was new for some members which is always a bonus. As we biked along the road to Otley the rain which had been blowing over us outwitted the wind and we got soaked. We cycled in to a head wind with Jill, Ian and Dave taking it in turns to lead. We baled in to the café on the bridge where some of us tucked in to the promised 45p mug of coffee (30p for tea) and equally cheap food.

We hung around as the rain poured down and debated which route to take home. Martin led 7 one way out of Otley and Gia led the remainder back to Harrogate via Leathley, Almscliffe Crag, North Rigton and home. It was a struggle in parts but we all made it and agreed it was an adventure. Total miles about 32.

GM

SNORKELLING OR CYCLING?

First of all an apology I have no picture from the 50 mile ride - my camera does not work underwater! In any case the 50 mile ride got cut to 35 miles - read on

The intrepid seven left the greasy spoon cafe at Otley in a period of light rain which got heavier

and heavier. After Otley Bridge we headed west along to Askwith and then we turned up the bank for the long climb up to the moors. All seven riders climbed well and then it was over the tops and into Timble village, dropping down to Fewston Reservoir car park.

The incessant rain meant a distinct lack of braking and there was little possibility of stopping for anything. Strangely enough nobody got excited by the prospect of an ice cream in the Yorkshire Water Car Park.

So we set off straight back home to Harrogate. A fast ride back through Beckwithshaw, and within site of Harrogate the sun came out.

Doesn't it just make you sick!
MW

Sarah M led and Crawford was backmarker on the short ride in view of the largish group of old and new cyclists as we headed towards Christ Church then across to Silverfields and down to Bogs Lane whence we made our leisurely way to the top of Forest Lane

Although a dull day it was pleasant for cycling and we progressed along Bilton Hall Drive to the Beryl Burton track where we did a left turn and continued back towards the Gardeners Arms to pick up the old railway section which led us back to the still new Dragon Junction bridge. Then it was up towards Asda while looking out for the potential broken glass under the road bridge and back through the town centre to our normal starting point at Hornbeam. Depending upon where one set off it was about 12 miles in all.

CM



