

Sunday, October 29, 2006

Wheel Easy! Ride Report No. 26



Sunday October 29th and the clocks went back last night. Any thoughts of dark miserable evenings were off the radar today as we cycled through the fabulous Dales in warm sunny weather. 24 riders had the same idea and all got their clocks set to arrive at Hornbeam on time. Our leader this week Keith took us out of Harrogate via Knox Lane and on to Hampsthwaite. There we split the group into three. A fast group to head straight to Pateley, the next pack(!) also heading for Pateley but at a more Wheel Easy pace and the third group rode on through Swarcliffe, Kettleasing and back to Harrogate.

The route to Pateley that Keith chose introduced many of us to new lanes which gave us some testing climbs, outstanding views and wonderful downhill runs. The view from behind Yorke's Folly across to Pateley was exquisite. We had to stop just to enjoy them (that's our excuse anyway).

We met two young women on our ride who cheerfully told us they had just biked 9000 miles round Australia in 10 months! They too were enjoying the Yorkshire sunshine.

We had an excellent lunch at Wildings Tearoom which Martin told us was on the site of an old sewage pumping station. Then he led us back along the river to Glasshouses and across the main road to Smelthouses and back to Harrogate via Burnt Yates, Hampsthwaite and Pennypot. Some interesting stats provided by Andy:

Total Distance = 52.8km (33 miles) measured from Hornbeam back to town centre.

Total height climbed = 1,050 metres.

Longest continual climb was from Thornthwaite @ 155metres (19.5km) to Yorke's Folly, 335 metres (25.6 km) a gain of 180 metres in a 'mere' 5.9 km.

The steepest section was probably the bit from Smelthouses to the cross roads near Brimham, a gain of 122 metres in a mere 1.9km!

GM



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Wheel Easy! Ride No. 26 - More Photos



