

Sunday, December 17, 2006

Wheel Easy! Ride Report No. 33



The first Wheel Easy! Christmas party was held today at The Harwood in Pannal and was a great success attracting 28 members and partners. Thanks are due to Sarah Everson for looking after all the arrangements.

The day's routes were shorter than usual to enable all to reach Pannal in time for the lunch at 12.30pm. Twenty cyclists including two new riders, Anna and John, met at Hornbeam for the 10am ride, while 2 more early birds met an hour earlier for the more challenging 'Wheel Speedy' run.

The pack decided to make the most of a perfect day by following one of our classic routes, the not too hilly circuit down to Follifoot and Spofforth, along the Sustrans route to Wetherby, and then back via Sicklinghall and Kirkby Overblow. Gia threw in a couple of extra loops to add to the interest, firstly through Linton and back along Northgate Lane, and then a stretch from the Clapgate Inn which rejoined the Kirkby Overblow road just as it turned north to reveal magnificent and crystal clear views down over the Wharfe Valley.

Continuing through the village, we crossed the southern bypass and dropped down Drury Lane to cross the A61 at the traffic lights. The distance totalled about 20 miles though rather more for those whose lunch was followed by a final challenging climb up the hill back into Harrogate.

Meanwhile the early birds, Paul and Dennis, were pedalling in a different direction, first to Knaresborough and Farnham and then through Minskip to Boroughbridge. The return was via Rocliffe and along the country road to Bishop Monkton and Markington, and so to Bishop Thornton, Ripley and then the unavoidable A61 back to Harrogate. In all about 34 miles in 2.5 hours at an average of just under 14mph.



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Wheel Easy! Ride Report No. 33 more photos



Photos provided by Ken Dickinson



