

Sunday, March 4, 2007

## Wheel Easy! Ride Report No. 44

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*No photo this week, so here's is a reminder of last September's demo in support of cycling on the Stray*

An excellent turnout of 22 riders assembled at Hornbeam Park for a ride on a grey cold winter day. Three rides were organised with groups setting off on a short, medium and long ride.

### Long ride

The long ride stretched the distance on this occasion with an ambitious target of a lunch stop at Masham and 10 riders set off on this for a good day in the saddle. The route took the group to Knaresborough and then along back lanes to Farnham and Bishop Monkton. On entering Ripon the decision was taken to have an early coffee stop at the Spa Gardens Café, which was a welcome warm up. After that it was over North Bridge and through the villages of Hutton Conyers, Wath and West Tanfield to Masham.

After refreshments at Masham the group climbed up over Nutwith Common to Grewelthorpe, and then a long downhill run to Ripon. The weather had changed for the worse by then and so it was a hard ride back to Harrogate into a headwind with driving rain. A tough but rewarding day.  
DP/MW

### Medium ride

Ten set off (and 10 returned) on the intermediate ride to Almscliffe Crag via Burn Bridge led by Tony. This went right round the Crag in an anticlockwise direction and down to Huby, through Weeton to the main A61 and then right to Kirkby Overblow and back to base by 12.30 just before the rain came in.

### Short ride(r)

Despite the foul weather forecast, the day was dry, crisp and grey, just right for cycling. Sadly there were no takers for the short ride so Tony kindly let me join his intermediate ride to Great

Almscliffe. A new method of departure ....carrying bikes up steps confused the short ride leader, and set the tone for the ride. Tony with his in tour travelling bike repair team, cajoled the slow member of the group as far as a turn off to Beckwithshaw.

At this point a passing cyclist had her bike mended, Phil had come to terms with getting his leg over..... his new saddle position, Max was flashing happily ready for some fast speedy action, Stuart was behaving very sensibly, with no tricks performed, Crawford built up his strength with a banana, and the ladies of the group were raring to go, except for the slow ride leader who decided, despite the firmly fixed seat and new cycling position thanks to the in tour bike repair shop, to take the slow easy way home via Beckwithshaw, and hills she knew she could cycle up. An excellent way to spend a morning, and if any one sees Max could they point him in the direction of Harrogate.

CG

*This photo came from Saddle Skedaddle with the caption: 'A Little Local Knowledge Goes A Long Way!'*

