

Sunday, April 29, 2007

Wheel Easy! Ride Report No. 52



A cool easterly wind was not enough to deter nearly 40 riders from meeting at Hornbeam today. In true Wheel Easy fashion the sun came out and we welcomed several new members spurred on by the article in Friday's Advertiser.

Three rides went out from Hornbeam, one to explore the local bike paths and beyond and two rides to Boroughbridge approaching from different directions.

The long ride with nine riders, two on a tandem, set off first to Wetherby via Follifoot and Spofforth. At Spofforth we picked up the railway line which apart from a short section in Wetherby goes all the way now to Thorp Arch trading estate. We of course reflected on the golden future when the line from Harrogate to Spofforth might be made available for a bike path and the more imminent prospect of the Nidd Gorge to Ripley path. Keep lobbying!

As the temperature improved we cycled easily along the route to Boroughbridge via Cattal, Whixley, Thorpe Underwood, Little and Great Ouseburn, Upper and Lower Dunsforth and through the grand village of Aldborough with its fine brick houses many covered with wisteria and clematis. Afterwards we reflected that we should have stopped in Great Ouseburn where there were Open Gardens and we expect an excellent tea in the village hall. No matter, we sat in the garden of the café in Boroughbridge and entertained an elderly couple with our knowledge of bike construction!

Home via Minskip, Staveley and Knaresborough. About 44 miles in all.
GM

What a turnout today with 21 riders setting off on a slightly hazy Sunday morning. Caroline and her touring partner decided to join this ride and then cut off - only she knew when! Today's ride was to see the White Horse but this was not to be - being overcast towards the Vale of York. Having got through the combination of traffic lights and mini roundabouts we all made our way along Waterside towards Goldsborough, Flaxby, Coneythorpe and Arkendale. Caroline and Jackie

decided they would head off back via Ferrensby and Farnham. It was here that one rider having trouble with his dicky valve (bike that is) decided also to head off home.

[The three lonely travellers agreed to go back along Waterside but the 2 ladies lost track of Peter who continued to have to blow his tyre up. Caroline then too had a very unfortunate incident just outside Knaresborough Co-op when her saddle completely sheared off its post - and not for the first time!! Jackie continued alone whilst Caroline's other half came to collect the somewhat subdued rider now relegated to a walker and bike. A new bike perhaps Caroline ???!]

The rest of us continued, by-passing Marton cum Grafton towards Lower Dunsforth. Here we were all shunted into single file as groups of very very fast cyclists passed by in their race to the finish. We arrived in Boroughbridge where two riders decided to stay for lunch whilst the rest of us continued back through Minskip, Staveley and Copgrove, Knaresborough and Harrogate.

At least the ride leader saw the White Horse.

A slightly longer than normal intermediate ride but fairly flat - until the end!

ST

The longest short ride in Wheel Easy history started along Hornbeam Avenue and through Hookstone Woods to skirt the Showground where visitors were pouring in from the coaches to the Spring Flower Show. Malcolm led a group of eight along the path to Hookstone Avenue and then round Morrisons to Starbeck, and via the Bilton Triangle track to Bilton lane, stopping to give a brief(ish) summary of the campaign for the route over the Nidd Viaduct to Ripley.

The Beryl Burton path was used to reach Knaresborough and an excellent tea stop on Waterside, and then again to return to Harrogate, coming back down Bogs Lane and Kingsley Drive to link through to the Stray. Several riders returned home directly for other commitments as Hornbeam approached, but Bridget and Louise enjoyed Malcolm's bonus offer riding to Beckwithshaw through south and west Harrogate, and back through the Pinewoods, completing 25 miles. It was a lovely ride with everyone discovering a surprising number of ideal off road and quiet paths for the first time.

MM



