

Sunday, May 13, 2007

Wheel Easy! Ride Report No. 54



Long ride: Twelve riders volunteered for another hilly Dales route despite a strong likelihood of rain. Testimony to how strong, lean and mean we are becoming as cyclists. Our route took us through Hampsthwaite, Kettlesing Bottom, past Menwith Hill and up to the top of Heyshaw Moor. From there it was a 'clenched teeth' precipitous descent into Pateley Bridge and a café which served up our assorted teas and cakes to a Vivaldi accompaniment. Four of our number headed directly back home from there.

The remaining eight left Pateley heading up to Dallow Moor via a cruelly steep hill, the worst bit of which was a sustained 16.5% gradient over a half kilometre stretch. Casual banter became impossible as we struggled for breath. Under gloomy overcast sky we crossed Dallow Moor, passing through Low Grantley. However, we decided to forego the option of a second café stop at Fountains Abbey (better cake and no Vivaldi) for fear of imminent rain. From there a familiar ride back through Clint and we retraced our steps back home from Hampsthwaite. And guess what - no rain! JF

(Martin adds: Jill's ride today was a corker! My legs have gone numb but I know it did me good. "More Please"!)

Medium ride: Thirteen riders set off on Sunday 13th - not a good omen for anyone of a superstitious nature, especially with a weather forecast predicting heavy rain later in the day! We followed the usual route to Knaresborough via Forest Moor Road and on to Abbey Road. Here we had a brief stop for pictures resulting in several complaints about the requested removal of head gear. We were also slightly delayed by the arrival of several Minis who all appeared to have taken a wrong turn.

We continued through Knaresborough by taking some of the back lanes which were new routes to some of the group. The route towards Copgrove was followed but then we turned left at Ockney Beck and picked up the Bridleway to Brearton. The previous days' rain hadn't affected the off road section across the fields too badly though there were a few comments about clean

bikes not being clean anymore. The weather remained kind and a few felt the need to disrobe (only partially) before continuing. The large puddles on the next section soon cleaned the mud off as, like it or not, some were right across the road.

In Brearton the advantages of the ride leader carrying a mobile phone was demonstrated when the rear half of the group became separated at a junction and had to ring the ride leader. Once reunited, the first break away group formed and two took the Ripley to Killinghall direction. The remaining 11 continued back via Scotton, Lingerfield into Knaresborough. Here, the ride leader negotiated terms and Malcolm led the group back towards Harrogate allowing the ride leader to head off home in Knaresborough. Approximately 21 miles with no rain - a success! BT

Short ride: Having been assured that the rain wasn't due until at least 2.00 pm, this left plenty of time for those on the short ride to get home dry - that was assuming nothing untoward happened, seats erupting perhaps! Caroline and friend Sue D insisted I go on the middle ride but despite their best efforts, I stuck to the schedule. Today's ride was planned to go out towards Knaresborough but in fact Caroline had a better idea so that was short lived although we did actually come back via Knaresborough so perhaps today was Caroline's ride lead by Sue T!

So the five of us set off, out of Hookstone and through the Showground and onto Rudding Lane at which point a gentleman cyclist going the opposite way suggested we were the Von Trapp family - how odd - there weren't any children amongst us and we certainly weren't singing! Having gone through Follifoot and into Spofforth we then headed back towards Harrogate but turned off for Little Ribston which was in fact Caroline's addition. This then brought us back into Knaresborough where we were then met with the possibility of being "mowed down" by the local Knaresborough Fun Runners and more serious runners doing the 10K along Waterside. We avoided both. This left the steep hill back into Harrogate and home - well done Caroline for cycling up this hill - a great effort. ST

Report from Dave Preston - Annual CTC cyclists service at Coxwold

The Elderly Gentlemen met at Low Bridge (the middle bridge), the intention to ride to Coxwold for the annual CTC cyclists service, the service is not compulsory but the lunch is good.

Two decided to make the journey.

The route being Knaresborough, Farnham, Boroughbridge.

Then on to Milnby and Thornton Manor bridge, first left turn after the bridge and on to Hutton Sessay, left at Carlton Husthwaite and finally the nasty little hill into Coxwold.

There were large groups of cyclists gathered at the village hall some waiting and some doing justice to the spread put on by the Coxwold residents.

Its always nice to meet up with cyclists that you may have ridden with before but don't see on a regular basis, but it was especially nice to see and chat with Bill Whale. Bill seems to have recovered very well after his serious accident, he had taken his car to Ripon and cycled to Coxwold from there (a bit easier than cycling from Harrogate, his usual route).

Because of the forecast for heavy rain it was decided not to attend the service and a slightly shorter route home via Husthwaite was taken.

This was the right right decision as it turned out as the rain started about a mile from home.

Total distance (short route) approx 53/55 mile carpark to carpark.

This is a very good social event, the food's good and some clubs make it into a club event.

