

Sunday, June 10, 2007

Wheel Easy! Ride Report No. 58



Seven riders opted for the longer ride to Fountains Abbey - a change from the advertised route to Yeadon Tarn. Heading out through Hampsthwaite, Shaw Mills and Bishop Thornton, everyone opted for the slightly longer scenic route to the café stop at Fountains Abbey going through Sawley and High Grantley. One rider headed straight home from there.

After welcome refreshments the remaining six cyclists set off towards Markington and Bishop Monkton. Two of our number headed off at speed to take a more direct route home from Bishop Monkton. The final four stalwarts enjoyed a leisurely cycle along the gentle roads through Roecliffe, Boroughbridge and back to Knaresborough. The group dwindled to three who headed back up the hill to Harrogate. An enjoyable 44 miles. JF

A fine day for cycling as we went down Hookstone to Forest Lane and up to the A59 before crossing to Bilton Hall Drive where we joined the Beryl Burton cycle track. Along Tennyson Avenue to Knox and across the A61 to Grainbeck Lane and hence Lund Lane towards Hampsthwaite where a sharp left into West Lane and quite a steep climb back up to the A59 (again). Straight across to Burley Bank Road and we were soon at Penny Pot Camp and along PP Lane to the Pateley/Otley Road. Turning left then first right it was virtually all downhill to the car park at Swinsty reservoir for ten survivors from the original fourteen. Some said the leader had set too fast a pace but I do not believe it !

It was ice creams all round for most before the fairly challenging climb back up to the main road. Turning left then first right we were met by the long steady slope up to the access to Little Armscliffe. All survived and it was easy to whizz back to town. A 28 mile outing was slightly more than anticipated but all seemed to enjoy the outing. CM

The weather was warm cloudy, sudden bursts of hot sun, as eight riders set off on the easy route to Beckwithshaw, turning right out of Hornbeam and along to Fulwith Mill Lane. We speeded gently through the Mallinson Estate and past Rossett and Ashville to the Squinting Cat

and the glorious hill down and unnoticeable up to Lady Lane. From there we headed, with all riders going strongly, to Beckwithshaw, and just before negotiating the main road a flight of Garforth Gaiters flashed past towards, surely, some very long steep hills.

As we ambled through Moor Park, Alec, our photographer and tour historian, told us all about the development and architecture of the Park, gave a viewing of the buildings and took another photo for the website. During this adventure one of the lady riders surprised us all with a flashy skid stop, much to everyone's admiration and leapt back on her bike and continued even more speedily.

As we turned back towards Beckwithshaw, Paul abandoned the group and speeded up to Little Armscliffe, muttering about needing to find bread that did not cost a week's salary for a loaf the size of a small brick. Luckily he met up with the early lunch boys from the intermediate cyclists, somewhere near Norwood and they pointed him in the direction of a good bakery.

A pleasant ride mainly down hill towards Harrogate via Harlow Carr and the path to Cornwall Road and the Valley Gardens led to Mr Snowden, who came to keep an eye on Mrs Snowden, heading off for a cup of tea and a cake in the Valley Gardens. Approaching the Stray everyone headed off home after completing 11 miles in one hour and three quarters. Another super morning. CG

