

Sunday, June 17, 2007

Wheel Easy! Ride Report No. 59



Long ride. Five riders set out on Wheel Easy's longer ride last Sunday. We rode along Knaresborough's Waterside en route to Boroughbridge and Ripon, where one rider headed home. The remainder visited the Spa Gardens café then were cajoled into making one lap of the bowling green in support of Ripon Girl Guides, who are raising money for a new building.

The ride continued through Studley Deer Park and returned via Ripley and Killinghall. A good day, we missed the rain by timing our lunch break. Jill had an easy ride after the Filey run the day before and Sarah failed to resist a new flavour in ice cream. BW

Medium ride. A group of 15 set off on Sunday morning for the medium ride to Boroughbridge, the weather was overcast and the rain of the preceding few days was threatening to pay a visit at any time. Two new riders, Polly and Keith, were undertaking their first ride with Wheel Easy and Jon kindly took on the role of back marker.

Some of the group decided to try some aerobatics at Woodlands traffic lights but everyone managed to keep going. A fairly gentle pace was set for the ride through Knaresborough and out to Staveley where the group formed up for a quick picture. A show of hands ruled out the proposed stop in Boroughbridge on the grounds of time. Therefore, we crossed the motorway at Minskip and travelled up the A168 where we managed to all pass a serious racing cyclist (not sure whether he was warming up or cooling down after a race) We turned right towards Arkendale where we found a number of the serious racers taking refreshments at the Bluebell Inn. Dennis looked remarkably fresh considering he had completed the Great Yorkshire Bike Ride the day before.

At Farnham crossroads 6 turned left for the slightly shorter route of about 24 miles whilst the remainder carried on through Farnham and Lingerfield to head for a total over 27 miles. Despite a few spots of rain on the outward leg we managed to get round the course without getting wet. BT

Short ride. After discussion and debate at the Hornbeam rendezvous, Caroline and Sue decided

they could sort their own short ride as they were the only "slowies". It also meant that today's leader could bank her plan for another time.

Actually, a fairly slick speed was maintained, punctuated by water and word stops. Heading off through Hookstone Woods and round the Showground, Rudding Lane was taken at a fair lick - shame about the red traffic light which did hinder progress up the hill. Undaunted, however, Follifoot and Spofforth were passed through and then left on to the A661 before undertaking further inclines through Little Ribston and so to Knaresborough. Just on the outskirts of Little Ribston having admired the flora and fauna, Caroline made a discovery that was to change the semantics of this ride - clusters of emerald berries destined to become that amazing libation - Sloe Gin. The Sloe Ride is a must for ardent distillers.

Back to the cycling, and from Knaresborough to Harrogate via Calcutt, the riders parted company at Christ Church Stray having achieved 15 miles of fun and future-planning involving panniers, sugar and the spirit of junipers! SD