

Sunday, June 24, 2007

Wheel Easy! Ride Report No. 60



Once again we welcomed new riders to Wheel Easy and hope they enjoyed their rides with us despite some of us now wearing Lycra. (It really is very comfortable!) Eleven riders were attracted to a new route which included a visit to the supposed El Dorado of Yeadon Tarn.

We were very democratic through the ride deciding on main roads versus country lanes and more miles and once it started raining how directly we could get home. After riding through Pool we introduced an excellent climb avoiding Pool Bank up Creskeld Lane just off the Arthington Road. This was a steady but pretty climb up to the main road at Bramhope. We rode through Old Bramhope and across to the road that leads to the airport. We crossed straight over and headed to Carlton Lane dropping down to Yeadon Tarn which has a lovely footpath all the way round and several sailing boats out on the water. Nobody seemed very impressed especially as there was no sign of a coffee shop so without further delay we found our coffee within minutes of one rider's caffeine deadline!

Before we gathered speed to drop down in to Otley on the East Chevin Road we remembered the Ramblers Tea Rooms (also known in the evenings as the Cheerful Chilli) and straight away knew we had struck gold. Delicious home made cakes, soups, scones and hot dishes. Second helpings of cake were the order of the day and we spent a good hour there. It was excellent value.

As it started to rain heavily we agreed that we would go back to the main road and descend to Pool on Old Pool Bank Road which was surprisingly dry and got us back to Castley safely and quickly. From there we followed the usual route back home in the steady rain via Kirkby Overblow. Distance around 37 miles. GM

A compact group set off today from Hornbeam on what was a somewhat impromptu, but in Wheel Easy terms so far as the writer is aware a unique route in parts.

The group set off in high spirits towards Kirby Overblow at what appeared to be a perfectly

respectable pace only to find ourselves overtaken by the long ride participants who were perhaps keen to arrive at the photo stop in the village. No matter, we then set off along fairly familiar territory without the long haul specialists who seemed to disappear in a cloud of dust and crashing of chains.

On reaching Wetherby via Sicklinghall opportunity was taken to make the most of David's local knowledge to check out the lower reaches of the newly opened cycle track to Thorp Arch and by a loop back we managed to find the very start of the Harland cycle track to Spofforth. That all followed a coffee in Wetherby Town Centre. We were less fortunate in finding the best off road track out of Spofforth but one, if not the intended, was found which was fine if a touch muddy in one section for Linda's super slim wheels - I always knew my thick mountain bike tyres would come into their own one day.

We emerged back onto the metalled surface somewhere near Higgs Farm and then at the road to Pannal/Rudding split up in our various preferred directions to return to Harrogate. It was a little wet at the end but a very enjoyable flattish 25 or so miles SB

Five set off down Hookstone and turned right towards the Squash Club then downhill through the showground area to Wetherby Road. Across to the tip and the cycle path towards the Hookstone/Forest Lane junction, uphill along Forest Moor Road and down to Low Bridge at Knaresborough. Speeding along Abbey Road we were soon on the old Wetherby Road where it was left turn back along to Chain Lane and right at the new roundabout. We picked up the lane through to Boroughbridge Road and meandered along back streets to Bond End. After the steady climb up the Beryl Burton track back to Bilton we thought a quick look at the Millenium Green was in order. Pity our three ladies had other ideas and did their best to lose us. Never mind, they were soon rounded up and we all parted company at the top of Claro Road after a pleasant 16 or so (dry)miles. CM

The photos below are scarecrows made by local primary schools which line the road out of Kirkby Overblow towards the by pass. The one below is Mrs. Thatcher!



