

Sunday, August 26, 2007

Wheel Easy! Ride Report No. 69



Despite this being a Bank Holiday weekend the sunny weather attracted 22 riders who met at Hornbeam Park for an enjoyable day's ride in the sunshine.

Medium ride. They say 13 is unlucky - it was today for one rider! How strange for the weather to be warm and sunny, after all, it was a bank holiday!! Today we welcomed new rider Michael, who lived south of Watford Gap but visiting relatives in Harrogate and noticed our ad in the local paper. Only used to riding in London, today's ride was a good few miles longer than he had ridden in one day - hopefully the little undulations would be an interesting test.

Thirteen of us set off, with the possibility that those doing the shorter ride could cut back to Harrogate. The ride today was into Boroughbridge, along Waterside, Goldsborough, Flaxby, Coneythorpe, Arkendale, Lower Dunsforth and Boroughbridge which was probably the longer half of the ride. The shorter half being through Minskip, Staveley, Copgrove, Knaresborough and home, or for Peter, a recent new member travelling from Leeds, back to Hornbeam again!!

Having proceeded along the dirt track into Goldsborough, it was here that Lynda's luck ran out when she got a hawthorn puncture. With a spare inner tube in her possession, this was soon fitted by Paul R and Dave W with the expert help from new rider Michael, a trained cycle teacher no less!!

Full steam ahead onto Arkendale we then said goodbye to 2 of the group who were going back. The rest of us continued our way towards Lower Dunsforth, where we were herded into single file whilst some racing bikes sped past doing the regular time trials round the area. Once at Boroughbridge we had Crawford's banana stop and the rest of us, various snacks and use of the toilets. Fully refreshed, the group made it back to their various points of destination. A most enjoyable morning. ST

Long ride. Based on an exploratory trip undertaken on the previous Friday, Martin led the long

ride on a hilly and challenging route. Ten riders set off out of Harrogate via Knox Ford, for Hampsthwaite, Shaw Mills, and Bishop Thornton. Here we met a group from CTC Teeside who were on a camping trip and enjoying a day out on a ride to Brimham Rocks.

We then continued to Sawley for a short break and afterwards to Grantley, Kirkby Malzeard from where we climbed up onto the moors following a minor road at high level with superb views right across to Teeside. Eventually we dropped down into Swinton and Masham where we enjoyed a sunny lunch stop in the square.

It was then a return via Snape, Wath, Ripon, Bishop Monkton, Knaresborough and back to Harrogate at around 4.30pm. Fortunately, the latter part of the route was fairly flat with a following tail wind and this was very welcome after our energetic morning.

Highlights:

At Hampsthwaite David put us all in a quandary when he realised he had left his car unlocked with the crown jewels inside. Fortunately after a phone call his father rescued the crown jewels.

A new performance-enhancing drug has been identified. Apparently, the International Cycling Union is introducing tests for Yorkshire Puddings consumed within one month prior to any Wheel Easy ride - Nick and David beware. (Fortunately for these 2 miscreants the photographic evidence failed to come out as the lens had misted over with steam from said puddings)

Are motorcyclists getting converted to cycling? For the first time ever we caught 2 of them examining our bikes in Masham Square, and they positively drooled when they came to Paul's carbon fibre frame and 10 speed cassette.

Congratulations to Bridget who completed the long ride in fine style, this being her longest ride by far and no doubt the first of many more. MW

Wheel Easy online album [here](#)



