

Sunday, January 27, 2008

Wheel Easy Ride Report No. 91



As we gathered at Hornbeam it seemed that we were going to get some respite from the high winds that been plaguing us for the last couple of days. Eight of us set off with the intention of getting to Almscliff Crag, looping via Stainburn, Leathley and Castley, and eventually rendezvousing with the medium ride in Wetherby.

However, the chain on Bill's bike snapped on Brackenthwaite lane. Nick and Paul R stayed behind to help while the rest of us accompanied the lead riders from the medium ride to Almscliff Crag where we paused for a group photo. The long ride continued onto Leathley and we were soon joined by the chain repair gang who'd taken a more direct route from Almscliff Crag. We continued on to Kirkby Overblow where one person headed for home (for Sunday lunch and the football) and the remaining riders headed for a café stop in Wetherby where as planned we met up with some of the medium ride group. From here we headed back through Little Ribston and Knaresborough - a good ride on a sunny if still somewhat windy day. JF

A medium ride looked unlikely at 8.30am due to the strong winds. However, conditions improved and at 10am 18 riders set off on the medium ride. We split into three different speed groups, giving riders the opportunity to ride at their own speed and on suitable loops. We made our way from Hornbeam Park via Pannal, Burn Bridge, Brackenthwaite Lane, North Rigton onto Almscliff Crag. The cross winds were particularly strong from Brackenthwaite Lane to North Rigton. We continued to Huby and Weeton where we joined the familiar route to Dunkswick and headed towards Kirkby Overblow.

After a short stretch on the A61 the group split with some making their way home and others continuing to Wetherby via Netherby and Sicklinghall. Going up the steep hill at Kearby I observed six dead pheasants on a house gate. I am not sure as to the reason they were there! At Wetherby we stopped at the popular Gourmet Café. After a long stop we returned via the cycle track to Spofforth and Follifoot where we dispersed and made our way home. The route was about 30 miles and there was a great deal of variety with country lanes, main roads, tracks, flat stretches and many hills. Once again a great morning, by turns an exhilarating and exhausting ride! PT

