

Sunday, February 10, 2008

Wheel Easy Ride Report No. 93



Wow! What a great day and a great ride. The intention was a long ride of 36 miles via Tockwith but Dave suggested a longer ride to York, which was met with great enthusiasm by the usual long riders. So the original plan was abandoned and Dave led us to York and what a ride it was!

From Knaresborough we headed towards Tockwith via Little Ribston and Cowthorpe. Our first stop was at the memorial to commemorate the battle at Marston. Steve returned home at this point leaving twelve to continue towards York via Askham. We arrived in York via the cycle track through the race course. After a quick stop on the Millennium Bridge, Malcolm led us to The Blake Head, one of his favourite cafés. It was an excellent choice and we all had more than intended.

Leaving York by the cycle path we made our way to Beningbrough, Aldwark, Great Ouseburn and Arkendale. At Arkendale the faster riders went off towards Knaresborough and home and the rest followed at a slower pace. The weather was great and it was one of the nicest rides I have been on since last summer/early autumn. Well done Dave! It is always a pleasure being led by an experienced cyclist. PT

First many thanks to Paul for kindly allowing the change of destination. It was his ride and the weather could not be bettered for cycling. We had clear country roads, and a magnificent cycle route through a beautiful old city. In my opinion the city cycle path must be one of, if not the, best in the country. What stands out in my mind is a dozen or so cyclists, cycling together in good formation chatting away to each other. Perfect! DP

Twelve medium riders started out on a fine Spring morning following a route out to Calcutt, over Thistle Hill and on through Follifoot and Spofforth to Little Ribston, where 5 chose to take the shorter option and return on the more direct route to Knaresborough. The remainder continued on via Cowthorpe, Cattal, Whixley and on to Thorpe Underwood, where we took a short break and learned about the connection of Anne and Branwell Bronte to this village, in deep contrast to the rugged moors of Haworth. The return ride via Great Ouseburn, Arkendale, Ferrensby and Knaresborough continued at a good pace on a perfect day for cycling. DB

The five breakaway members left the main medium ride group at Little Ribston. Reaching Knaresborough was no effort in the glorious sunshine and even when the dreaded "Beryl Burton" was mentioned no one declined. All reached the end of the climb without incident when disaster struck. No one knows how she does it but saddle wrecker Caroline performed her magic again. "I only went through a pothole" was the comment after her seat parted company with its post. Closer inspection revealed that repairs were impossible. A gallant team effort of husband swapping cycles and pedalling in a standing position, not recommended, and rider walking the

remains of the injured vehicle, saw them safely home with another tale to tell. MG

Five ladies rode leisurely into the glorious sunshine which was easily the best day of the year so far. With no time restrictions except Geraldine needing to be back by noon for a very important lunch date, the first half of the ride took us through Crimble and towards the golf course. Crossing over from Sainsbury's we headed off towards Calcutt and Knaresborough.

At this point we literally had the road to ourselves as we approached Abbey Road as it was closed to traffic - Trees'R'us were making sure that no trees fell into our path! This was very kind of them!! A pleasant amble followed along Abbey Road and then onto Chain Lane for an extra loop before heading back into Knaresborough where it was 4 to 1 to head up Knaresborough Road along the cycle path versus Beryl Burton and here we parted company. Back into Starbeck we all made our various ways home and more importantly, Geraldine was home within plenty of time to celebrate Joe's birthday today. ST

