

Sunday, April 6, 2008

Wheel Easy Ride Report No. 101



"BRISK" MEDIUM RIDE REPORT

I thought I was leading ten riders away from Hornbeam Park but every time I looked behind we were growing in numbers, and I think we ended up at 12 or 13 riders. It was bright and sunny but exceedingly cold.

We headed out to Beckwithshaw, The Sun Inn, and Menwith Hill. At this point Alec had a puncture and found himself indebted to Stuart (again!) for a spare inner tube. Then it was a fast run down from Menwith Hill to High Birstwith and Hampsthwaite through a snow flurry, before returning to Harrogate where several members of the group headed home.

The remainder of the group headed to the Catwalk Café. The general consensus was that we thoroughly enjoyed the morning despite it being a shorter ride than planned, but I think on the whole we were glad to finish early because of the chilly conditions.

Highlights

- One rider mentioned he wanted to get back to see the start of the Grand Prix, (don't let Malcolm hear you talk about this, Dennis!).
- Wheel Easy has a distinct lack of foot masseurs (with one notable exception). There were a few of us would have paid good money to get the circulation going in our feet today.
- Do Brass Monkeys lose their feet as well?
- Will Stuart get a fast road bike? And then will we see the legal profession outpacing the accountants this year?
- Good to see Mark, Keith and Helen joining us from Wetherby and Leeds. Our fame is spreading south. MW

"SLOWER" MEDIUM RIDE REPORT

Twelve elected for the "slower" medium ride taking in Route 55 of the Wheel Easy rides. It is a fabulous ride with some climbs but great Yorkshire views and thrilling downhill stretches. We rode in bright sunshine, with easy conversation and a wonderful sense of well being. 25 miles and all home safe, dry and warm before the snow as predicted came down.

Highlights

Dozens of spring lambs frolicking in the fields.
One of our 0-30 crew successfully climbed up to Little Alms Cliff and beyond to Norwood.

Excellent Catwalk Café stop in Harrogate where the "brisk" group had kept some seats warm for us. One female Wheel Easy member asking a male member if he was regular. He assured her he was! GM

Ten took the classic route to Ripon, through Knaresborough, Farnham and Bishop Monkton, with just one slight hiccup along the way when Peter N's chain broke and his brand new chain repair tool turned out to be faulty. However, Bill naturally also had the necessary tool plus a spare chain link, and Peter soon effected a perfect repair.

Nearing Ripon, the clouds began to gather and flurries of snow to fall. At Spa Gardens half the group decided to complete the planned annual Daffodil Ride to Thorp Perrow, four stopped for coffee at the Sun Parlour café before returning to Harrogate, and one chose a route through Kirkby Malzeard.

The five, including experienced new rider Dave from Leeds, arrived at Thorp Perrow just as Brian's Ripon Loiterers group emerged after their café stop, and the opportunity was taken for a joint photo with a background of a veritable host of golden daffodils. Then we took our turn in the café (baked potatoes and tuna mayo recommended) but by the time we came out the weather had turned significantly colder, and this brought snow with it for much of the journey back. However, there were also bright spells, and with Peter L taking the lead we were able to enjoy the Loiterers favourite route back to Ripon through Well and Thornborough with some lovely tracks and very quiet lanes. Then we retraced our route back to Harrogate, with riders peeling off for direct routes home (and very welcome hot baths and showers) along the way. At least one rider achieved his 100Km target! MM



