

Sunday, April 20, 2008

Wheel Easy Ride Report No. 103



Fourteen of us set out on the ride, in dubious weather, where our first port of call was to be the Sun Parlour café in Ripon's Spa Gardens. With a brisk pace we soon arrived at Ripon via Knaresborough and Bishop Monkton where we were the first of many cyclists to grab some seats in the café. A later deluge of cyclists turned up having done just breezed down from Teeside in a little over two hours - they admitted to having had a tail wind! The two Wheel Easy medium rides arrived soon after prompting the café manager to instigate some crowd control (i.e. helping us realise when the right time to leave might be).

The rest of the ride was still at a brisk pace as we rode across Dallow Moor via Galphay and Kirkby Malzeard. Over to Brimham Rocks, where we stopped outside for a brief bite (and started to freeze), and back home via Burnt Yates and Hampsthwaite. All in all the ride was fast, pretty dry, hilly (Jill has her reputation to uphold) and all the more enjoyable for having new sections of route and different views. Definitely one worth doing again in sunny weather. NK

This was a day when all three groups of the day combined to set off in the same direction at least until the comforts of the Spa Gardens café at Ripon. Thereafter each group appears to have taken different routes to continue or return to Harrogate. There was a very high turnout today, well over 30 in all with several new faces joining in. Just as well the three groups, long and two varieties of medium (fastish and slowish), set off in a staggered way. There were 17 starters in my group of fastish medium which was certainly big enough in itself to be noticeable to passing motorists, some of whom as we all know are less tolerant of cyclists than others. When do we get the new cycle track going to Ripon I wonder?

Suffice to say the route taken followed the Knaresborough/Copgrove/Burton Leonard/Bishop Monkton sort of direction. On the way back with Phil's assistance we found the track out of Ripon at the end of Whitcliffe Lane and enjoyed a return via Ripley. From there having adopted the route which I think is known by some of the group as "Crawford's couloir", we finished on the Otley Road just outside Killinghall where the party split into various parts depending on ultimate destinations. A longer medium ride than most covering some 32 enjoyable miles. Pity about the continuing cold weather but there is not much to be done about that. It was a good workout for yours truly in need of some miles before a visit to the New Forest next week. SB

Hello! Here is the slow medium ride report for Sunday 20th April. Seven people opted to follow the slow medium ride to Ripon today, still grey and cold but wind free. We set off to Knaresborough and were overtaken by the medium group at Chain Lane Co-op. We did however keep them in our sights until at least Copgrove, where we lost Jackie, who returned home along a route she knew. We sped on to Burton Leonard and Bishop Monkton, and picked up a medium ride straggler or two, despite our being careful not to go too fast and overtake this group, thus saving their embarrassment. Amazingly Ripon suddenly came into view and we were there. We cunningly biked through a load of road works and closed roads to get to the Spa Café, where we found the speedy group ready for the next stage of their multi mile trip to Carlisle or Berwick or somewhere very far north.

The medium riders were however still in the queue for their cake and coffee, thus giving away the fact that they had only arrived seconds before us. After a delicious coffee and various goodies, and a welcome toilet stop and a good gossip, we saddled up again for the journey back. Now I don't know what it is about the ride to and from Ripon, but it seems to be mainly downhill there, and then on the way back not only does it appear to be mainly downhill, it also seems to be half the distance. The medium ride had departed before us and therefore we tried not to go too speedily, and luckily we did not meet on the return route to Knaresborough. We did however meet a person who was training to cycle up Mont Ventoux, and we all speculated on being able to do that next year. It is amazing what going to Ripon will do for your confidence. Carried away with how clever we were to get to Ripon without being towed needing an overnight stop, a hospital or anything else, we decided to go the quickest way through Knaresborough and went from the Boroughbridge Road, to the hill up to Calcutt, up Forest Moor Lane, and straight up Hookstone Road. Again without collapse or stops, the only incident being Neil getting his second wind and zooming off up to Thistle Hill instead of turning right to Forest Moor Road. At this point the leader had visions of chasing him all the way down to Follifoot. Luckily he heard her screams and shouts to come back. On going our separate ways at Woodlands Corner, we kept meeting medium riders who had obviously just got back to Harrogate, and a large group were noted on the edge of the Stray by Claro Road. This I think showed that we perhaps arrived back in Harrogate at about the same time. Brilliant. CG