

Sunday, June 15, 2008

Wheel Easy Ride Report No. 111



Six riders left Hornbeam Park on the long run to Grassington. We started in dry weather, along with all the other riders in a lengthy peloton along Leadhall Lane, and decided it would be better to separate into our smaller group. So we increased the pace and left Harrogate via Whinney Lane to Beckwithshaw. The heavy clouds opened before we got to Little Almscliffe, so we had a brief stop to put on waterproof jackets, and then on through Norwood, across the A59 to Menwith Hill, and left towards Greenhow. We were overtaken by several police cars and fire engines, and later found they had closed the road just before the turning into Thruscross village to deal with a serious accident. Two air ambulances were also in attendance. We therefore had to retrace our route and divert around Thruscross reservoir adding 4 miles and some severe hills onto our journey. At this time the rain was coming down in stair-rods, and we all discovered how ineffective brakes are on very steep hills in torrential rain!

At Greenhow, one of the group returned home and the remaining five continued past Stump Cross Caverns (clocking 41mph downhill - yippee!) and on to Grassington for a coffee stop and photoshoot by the giant sandcastle in front of the Town Hall. Leaving Grassington we followed the River Wharfe through Burnsall, Bolton Abbey, Beamsley, Ilkley, Askwith and Otley, then turned north through Farnley (yet more hills!) and back to Burn Bridge and Harrogate at 4pm. Sixty three very hilly miles, and wonderful scenery! EW

Jill and Gia decided to lead a shorter ride after the exertions of the previous day's Wetherby-Filey ride. Several others decided this would be a good idea and 16 of us ambled along towards Stainburn Woods via Moor Park. Good to welcome Debbie this morning and thanks to Alec for revolutionising Linda's bike for her.

The lure of an early coffee stop at the Parochial Hall in Fewston was tempting for some and not for others but our enthusiasm meant we were 20 minutes early for opening time so we added another down and up hill loop!

This venue is a great place for excellent home made cakes and sandwiches and is open every Sunday through April to September 11.00-4.00. Different groups hire the hall to use it as a fundraiser (Closed July 20th) So any ride leaders who want to weave this into their route in middle or end of ride will have much enthusiastic support. (Loos as well!)

After the stop the two Daves, Joe and Geraldine extended their ride and went to Leathley whilst everyone else made their way home via varying routes. We had a short spell of rain but mainly a fine morning to be out on the bike. GM

