

Sunday, August 17, 2008

## Wheel Easy Ride Report No. 120

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Despite horrendous downpour Sat night and early Sun morning a good turn out of around 20 riders at the car park.

Weather dull and damp but not raining.

Ten riders elected for long ride to Leyburn or that direction with option to turn back if weather proved "difficult". Riders being Malcolm Y, Alec, Peter B, Peter J, Phil, Sue C, Jill, Bill W, Eric, and Dave P.

Our route took us out of Harrogate via Knox Ford, Oak Beck being in spate, this should have given us some indication of what to expect on route, but not quite.

On to Ripley then on to Fountains Abbey, before Fountains at the aptly named Watergate the road was flooded (bottom bracket deep) washed our bikes and our socks. At Fountains Abbey on the climb out of the lower car park we were met by a stream flowing down the road, with plenty of large stones and gravel on the road. Not too good if on skinny tyres.

On to Winksley and Kirkby Malzeard then Grewelthorpe on to Ilton (should be HILL TON) up hill and down dale, though there seemed more ups than downs.

On reaching a ford, fast flowing and more than bottom bracket deep, this was seen as a challenge by some riders who cycled through it, however one EG could be seen drifting to the right with the current in the direction of York and Hull, which begged the question should the Spurn Point lifeboat be rung and told to expect a wet cyclist.

At the other side of the ford was a sight that brought a few wry smiles to the wet cyclists.

Two large expensive looking BMW`s "conked out" with water in their sophisticated computer controlled engines. Obviously the slogan (with apologies to Audi) "Vorsprung Durch Wasser" didn't apply, in fact was a Nein Nein.

On to Healey, Ellingstring and Jervaulx Abbey for a very welcome tea stop and to wring out our socks.

Peter B left us here for a fast return home , the remaining nine returned to Ripon via Thirn , Snape and Kirklington. (much flatter)

Again a welcome tea stop at Spa Gardens café. Then the heavens opened but we were inside the cafe, then it stopped. Back via Fountains, this time cycling down the road stream avoiding the rocks and grit, and just as our socks were beginning to dry out the final flooded road, or "Malcolms bike wash" as he described it, you are kind Malcolm.

It was a great ride and quite a change to get wet from below rather than from above, so thanks to Malcolm from "The Wheeeasy RUSTY chain gang" for the ride. It was questioned whether Malcolm's lumpy bits were worse than Jill's hills.

But a fellow rider confessed that at the last Jill's hills ride he had walked up a hill for the first time, glad I missed that one. Dave P

Seven riders left Hornbeam for a medium ride to Fountains Abbey via Brimham Rocks.

We followed a well worn path to Whinney Lane heading to Beckwithshaw, turning right at the T junction at Beckwithshaw for the steep descent of Pot Bank. At the Pennypot roundabout we lost our first rider who decided to return. The remaining six riders headed towards Hampsthwaite via Burley bank road crossing the A59 for the fast descent into the village. After the climb of Clint Bank we headed towards Burnt Yates for the steady climb to Brimham Rocks.

When we reached the Rocks we continued past the car park entrance taking the right turn for Warsill and a lovely fast descent of three miles reaching the normal route to Fountains Abbey. Here we turned right and then next left for Watergate passing the Tower before the drop to the Abbey lower gate, a short wet climb up the road took us to the coffee shop.

We decided to take the quick route back via Markington, the Drovers Inn, Ripley, Killinghall, Knox Mill Lane and Spruisty Bridge. At Crab Lane in Bilton we separated to make our own way home. Ride distance approx 33 miles. PS

