

Sunday, August 24, 2008

## Wheel Easy Ride Report No. 121

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The sun was shining as 11 people set off for the long ride. As we headed out via Little Almscliffe we appeared to be heading towards the rain and sure enough by the time we reached Norwood it arrived. Fortunately it didn't last too long and we continued to Fewston, Timble and over to Askwith. Heading towards Ilkley we turned off to climb the hill towards Middleton and Langbar, with one person opting for the more direct route to the café. The rest of us continued along the top and down to Beamsley and back to the café in Ilkley where Peter was by this time looking very relaxed with the Sunday paper. After a brief visit to J.D.Cycles we had a pleasant ride home in sunshine, via Otley, Castley, Weeton, Dunkeswick and Kirkby Overblow. JF

Medium ride. A large group of 18 riders set out from Hornbeam Park and headed out to Beckwithshaw in bright sunshine. The first stop was at Stainburn car park, and at this point we decided the Met Office weather forecast for the day was well and truly up the creek. Somehow bright sunshine had been replaced by a driving storm of rain, and waterproofs were hurriedly donned.

By the time we got to the Sun Inn, appropriately, the sun was shining so we all continued on our way past Menwith Hill and down to Darley Mill for morning coffee.

The large group rather took over the café, but as it was surprisingly quiet for a bank holiday I am sure they were delighted to see us. Then it was a return via Birstwith and a fast swoop down into Hampsthwaite. Continuing to Killinghall and crossing the busy A61, we made our way home via Knox Village.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Welcome to two new riders - Andi and Alison who kept up well with the group and we look forward to seeing them again.
- Ben and Sophie suffered the only mechanical failure of the day and we unjustly presumed they had turned back, only for them to magically appear at the end of Pennypot Lane.
- Jean gets the prize for carrying the most well-stuffed pannier bag, and Dennis gets the prize for the least stuffed bag of any sort! MW

Initially just two were set for the short ride, but the promised 'Wetherby round' ultimately attracted six cyclists, first timers Paula and Paul, second timer Linda just back from a cycling holiday near the Danube, Barbara, Lynda and Malcolm M.

The route went west along Rossett Green Lane (where we helped a cyclist mend his motorised bicycle) through Burn Bridge to the A61, across the roundabout and left to Kirkby Overblow. There was plenty of banter in the sunshine as the group got to know each other, and the miles passed by almost unnoticed at a leisurely pace which suited everyone. An unfortunate cyclist from Leeds whose 'rear mech' had fallen apart at the scenic bend en route to Sicklinghall kindly took the photo. Soon afterwards those black clouds above turned to rain and we took shelter at Costa coffee in Wetherby.

The sun returned as we carried on towards Knaresborough, along Abbey Road and Waterside and up into Harrogate. Altogether about 25 thoroughly enjoyable miles. MM

