

Sunday, October 26, 2008

Wheel Easy Ride Report No. 131



Medium ride report to follow

No fewer than 15 riders left Hornbeam for the long ride. Beckwithshaw was our first stop to allow people to catch up. A stiff head wind greeted us as we slowly climbed up towards Little Almscliff with great views over Fewston and beyond, the trees still holding on to some of their autumn glory. After another short stop we sped down to Fewston and climbed up the back road to Timble - a great road this, very quiet.

Stopped at Timble to allow people to regroup and continued climbing to the top of Askwith Bank with the wind increasing and rain clouds gathering down the Wharfe valley. By the time we had all safely descended down to Askwith the heavens opened. All took shelter under trees in some someone's drive (thanks for photos Dave and Jill). Waited for a short time to allow rain to pass and continued on towards Ilkley . The river was in full flood and fast flowing.

Five riders decided to turn into Ilkley and the lure of the warm dry coffee stop. The remaining 10 continued on down the Wharfe valley to Bolton Abbey stopping for lunch at the Cavendish Pavilion for a warm welcome and cyclists discount - a great stop but a bit busy. A short lunch then over the river bridge and left to Appletreewick. All climbed the steep bank well out of Appletreewick. The trees were once again magnificent with the sun breaking through.

Onwards to Stump Cross and a quick stop to allow people to catch their breath, then on to Greenhow. Four riders decided to take the great run down Duck Street to Menwith Hill, with the rest dropping down to Pateley Bridge on the back road for a quick tea stop in the lemon meringue pie tea room, great home made cakes and scones. Decided to take the main road from Pateley to Harrogate turning right at Burnt Yates and on through Hampsthwaite. Fifty five miles with great company and scenery. Rider of the day goes to Jill for putting up with an all male group. Come on you gurlies in the medium group, try a long ride its not that bad! Malcolm Y

Despite the threat of colder weather the Medium Group ride was well attended with 13 brave souls setting off for a ride to Wetherby with an optional extension to Tadcaster and the shelter of Tykes Tea Rooms. Guided by Caroline's expert local knowledge we left Harrogate and its traffic via Pannal and then climbed up to Kirkby Overblow, waving to a 'supportive local' on the way. After this, we rode on to Wetherby via Linton and then the group divided. Peter led the shorter riders back to Harrogate via the cycle path to Walshford, turning off in Cowthorpe to return to Harrogate.

Five riders rode on to Tadcaster where after a sustaining repaste we returned via Wighill, Rudgate and North Deighton to Knaresborough. All in all we rode 39 miles. Perhaps a little long for the Medium Group, but life is nothing without challenges! Nick F

Medium ride. Another view.

A very quick ride report for Sunday's medium ride. Freezing cold, bright sun, a super ride from Hornbeam via Church Lane, Pannal, the Margolis residence, (from whence rather envious calls and greetings emanated), Kirkby Overblow to Wetherby, where the group split up with Nick to lead on to Tadcaster and a coffee stop, and Dennis to lead the ride back to Harrogate and his roast dinner.

Dennis took a lovely route along the side of another road and eventually despite bitter cold rain, we all arrived back at Knaresborough to go our separate ways to important engagements. Nick's group may still be in the café in Tadcaster, but with Nick's super efficient leading I doubt it. Thanks to both leaders, it was a great ride.
Caroline G