

Sunday, November 16, 2008

Wheel Easy Ride Report No. 134



A group of 16 riders left Hornbeam for the long ride to Pateley attracted by the wonderful autumn sunshine and the prospect of a scenic ride up the dale.

All riders made it to Darley by the most tortuous route possible. A coup d'etat led by Martin formed a rebel breakaway of 8 riders destined for Darley Mill coffee shop. The remaining group continued to Thornthwaite passing the picturesque St Saviours Church and packhorse bridge but the rumblings of dissent continued (or was it Jill's hunger?).

The democratic movement for change vetoed the trip round West End and a gang of 4 eventually made it to Greenhow. We carefully made our way down the twisting minor road into Pateley for a welcome lunch at the Lemon Meringue Cafe. Here an alliance was formed with Martin's breakaway and 8 riders returned together to Harrogate.

The tally of churches and chapels was reduced by the route changes but I managed to spot 12 plus 3 in Harrogate. We covered just over 40 miles in about 4.5 hours which sounds easy but the route could be described as 'challenging'.

All in all a great ride combining religion and politics - shame we didn't manage to include beer! Phil St.

Fifteen riders selected the medium ride on a perfect autumn cycling day. Following a route via Calcutt, Thistle Hill and Follifoot, through Spofforth and on to Little Ribston, Cowthorpe, Cattal and Kirk Hammerton. Crossing the railway to Green Hammerton and on to Thorpe Underwood.

Returning to Knaresborough where the group split, some returning home and the remainder to the coffee shop before tackling the hill back home. A rather longer ride than anticipated, (This comes of using an elastic band as a map measurer.) Almost 40 enjoyable miles. Dennis B

Having attended to an exhausted medium ride participant, I can now write the ride report for the short ride. Only two others were up to the challenge of the short ride today, which of course involved climbing the north face of Little Almscliffe. Peter and Petra (Rocks 1 and 2) set off at a disconcertingly brisk pace up Rayleigh Road towards St. George's Road, Rossett and the Squinting Cat and Lady Lane. It was only as we were approaching Beckwithshaw that I caught up, as Rock 1 (Peter) had stopped momentarily to put on his chain that had dropped off.

All was well with the world as we ambled through the park, the sky was blue, the sun bright and multicoloured leaves rustled contentedly in the breeze. It was at this point that I realised that we had not had a prolonged stop to admire a view, take in necessary calories, rehydrate, have a photo shoot or rescue a distressed animal.

Relentlessly the group sped on upwards toward the summit, stopping only so the leader could catch them up. Filled with determination and power it was decided to speed on to Pennypot Lane end via the moors, the Sun Inn and a few thousand happy grazing sheep, where we could reassess our position. Peter, motivated by his lunch date needed to be home for 11.30, but Petra, who was on excellent form despite a 6 month break from Wheel Easy, an evening of wine tasting and a night of sorting out a credit card system for Namibia, was keen to continue to the Menwith Hill Balls and the Hills of Hampsthwaite.

So we bade Rock 1 a safe return and noting his concern for our welfare we sped onto the ridge behind Menwith and superlative views up the valley towards Pateley, and probably if I'd had my glasses on we could have seen the long ride wending its way from church to chapel along the valley bottom.

A stupendous zoom down into Hampsthwaite whetted our appetites for another ride upwards to Killinghall and Knox, and back home via the cycle paths of Bilton. A superb day for a ride, despite the time of year. 24 miles in a leisurely two and a half hours and the exercise necessary for some short riders. Caroline



