

Sunday, December 28, 2008

Wheel Easy Ride Report No. 140



Today's long ride was split into two groups to ride at different paces. Seven people set out from Hornbeam Park for the faster ride and were soon joined by Ben as we rode through town. As we headed out through Hampsthwaite and Burnt Yates and up past Brimham Rocks, it became clear that it was a case of leading from the back as the ride leader was the slowest cyclist in the group. However, the others kindly waited for me at appropriate junctions!

Going up onto Dallow Moor, Paul and Chris opted for the more direct route along a rough track while the rest of the group continued round on the road. It was a noticeably chilly wind up on the moor and we headed swiftly down towards Ripon via Grantley and Fountains Abbey, only pausing for a few hundred deer to race across the road just ahead of us in Studley Park.

Due to the winter closure of the Spa Gardens café, our usual place for refreshments in Ripon, we had our café stop at the Warehouse Cafe where tables had very kindly been reserved for us. After a while we were joined there by the other group of cyclists on the long ride. After the stop our route home was through Bishop Monkton and Knaresborough, with Dave, Malcolm and Peter heading off for an extra few miles at Farnham. Jill

We welcomed new members to Wheel Easy today on a fairly chilly morning.

Joe and Geraldine kindly stepped in at the last minute to lead the medium ride.

Gia and Malcolm led eight riders on Jill's excellent long route to Ripon via Hampsthwaite, Burnt Yates (where some of the riders noticed the pictures of two Burnt Gates at the cricket club) on to Brimham where we were joined by Liz who had ridden from Summerbridge. We carried on to Dallow Moor before dropping down into Grantley and Aldfield before joining our brethren at the Warehouse Café.

Thirty miles to lunch then another 15 or so home via the familiar Bishop Monkton route. Well done to Sarah C. who completed her first long Wheel Easy ride. We plan to lead some more longer slower rides for both the long riders and the medium riders next year. Gia

There were somewhat fewer of us today than usual, so only six of us set off on the medium ride for Boroughbridge. Geraldine had been given the responsibility to be the back marker, but this arrangement lasted only about 10 minutes, and she was around 100 metres ahead of the group. We took the now-familiar route through Calcutt, Knaresborough along the riverside, Boroughbridge Road and then left past Gibbet Farm to Farnham, up the hill and then left to Staveley, Minskip and into Boroughbridge for elevenses. Only one café was open, the one with the ginnel at the side, but the bacon and egg sandwiches were as good as I remembered.

There were a couple of other cyclists in the cafe, and discussion about Rohloff hub gears and eccentric bottom brackets ensued.

The feet having thawed out a little, and Peter having left us in order to get back to Harrogate early, five of us set off for Roecliffe, Bishop Monkton, across the A61 to Markington, past the Hob Green Hotel and then to the derelict Drovers Inn. Left towards Ripley, and down the hill at a very respectable pace (36 mph was achieved by one of our party). We turned left, then right through Ripley, past the 'hotel de ville' and on to the roundabout on the A61. We braved the traffic to the point at which the old road takes you to the old bridge, cycled on the footpath and then took the Crawford Bypass round Ripley, crossed the road to Knox Mill bridge, up the hill, at which point we went our separate ways home, having completed about 31 miles. Joe

