

Sunday, February 1, 2009

Wheel Easy Ride Report No. 145



Medium ride. Despite dire warnings of advancing snow and sub zero temperatures nearly 30 turned out today for a ride. Many of the Ceilidh dancers were out in force still laughing at our sheer inability to follow simple instructions. The Ceilidh was a great success and many thanks once again to everyone who helped and to Tony Whitehead the caller and The Village Hop Band. St.Wilfrid's Hall is an excellent venue.

So back to the ride, I abandoned the idea of High Birstwith which would have been very chilly and exposed in favour of Wetherby via Burn Bridge, Kirkby Overblow, Netherby and Sicklinghall. In order to keep warm 15 of us sped through Wetherby and out on to the cycle path along the A168 to Little Ribston and Knaresborough. We all piled in to the Riverside café for tea, coffee, teacakes, toasted scones and cake. All delicious.

Home before the snow flurries 31 miles. Gia

Long ride. Good turn out despite weather forecast, and a good night at our Ceilidh. Old saying "February Fill Dike, be it Black or be it White." Long ride destination Easingwold, but via Wiggington and Sutton on the Forest.

Eight riders left for Low Bridge, where we picked up three WE riders and one left for a shorter ride. Ten set off at Branton Green minor flurries of snow caused a rethink, original route had cut off points for bad weather, but it was decided to ride to Boroughbridge for tea/coffee and see how the weather developed.

After coffee break at Boroughbridge the weather eased off, so it was decided to continue to Ripon, if the weather changed for the worse we would still have an easy run back to

Harrogate. At Ripon two riders left to return via Littlethorpe. The remainder went on to Fountains Abbey. At Studley Roger four riders left to return via Brimham Rocks.

Minor snow flurries persisted but nothing to cause any problems. After a break at Fountains Abbey Visitor Centre the remaining four returned to Harrogate via Ripley (more snow flurries). Lucky for us the threatened snow never arrived and road conditions were good. Would estimate total mileage for all riders between 40 and 50 miles. Dave P

Six riders opted for the short ride. We made our way to Pannal where we were joined by a group of medium group riders who started to follow us but they were soon rounded up and put back on track. We continued onto Follifoot and decided not to go via Spofforth in case we lost Mervyn. Matt tried to convince me that the Super Bowl may be more important than the Tyne-Wear derby.

From Follifoot we cycled along the off road track near Plumpton Rocks, into Calcutt and onto Waterside. Pressure was put on the group leader to stop for coffee and cake where we enjoyed hearing about mountain biking in America and Paula's possible off road ride in March/April. Continuing up the Beryl Burton we decided to swap bikes!. It was a great ride with great company! Arriving back at Hornbeam we had covered about 14 miles. Paul T



