

Sunday, April 19, 2009

Wheel Easy Ride Report No. 156



It was a slightly chilly and overcast start to the morning as ten of us set off from Hornbeam on the long ride. Heading out towards Brimham Rocks we were joined by one more rider, Colin, who had ridden over from Darley. From here we continued up to Dallow Moor and after a brief stop to eat some of Malcolm's homemade flapjack we then took the narrow road around Dallowgill, coming out at Kirkby Malzeard. It was then a speedy ride via Grewelthorpe to the café stop at Masham. Dennis and Alec decided to head straight home, but the rest of us enjoyed lunch outside as the promised sunshine had finally appeared.

Afterwards we set off for the climb over to Lofthouse, discovering that we were sharing the road with a classic car rally heading in the opposite direction. All completed the climb and at the bottom of the steep descent to Lofthouse we met up with another Wheel Easy member Dave R. We joined him for an unscheduled stop for locally made ice cream and tea before riding down the valley to Pateley Bridge.

The original route back had been planned to give a slightly easier climb out of Pateley Bridge, but a democratic vote amongst the group meant we took the more direct, but steeper road up to Yorke's Folly - a challenging climb, so well done to James for getting to the top for the first time. After that it was home via Darley, Birstwith and Hampsthwaite. In total about 65 fairly hilly miles much of it in glorious spring weather. Jill

A record 30 opted for the medium ride which was the second in the Fabulous Five Series. Jon and Dennis kindly agreed to take a quicker group so armed with a map with directions they set off.

At Calcutt I don't know if they realised but they had shed some of their riders so my steady group grew to 19 and then to 21 when we gathered up Yvonne and Peter who had snuck in

to The Greenery at Thorp Arch for a coffee and a scone. The promised sun had come out by now and Sarah was inundated with orders for Wheel Easy garments after quick trying on sessions.

The ride included the Harland Way and the path on the old Wetherby- Tadcaster line to Walton and Thorp Arch which was new to many of the riders today. Like a pack of schoolchildren they all whooped, whistled and hollered as we went under the tunnel beneath the A1!

We missed out the Tockwith loop but added in Cattal and Hunsingore coming back along the path beside the A168 to North Deighton. Several of the group stopped in Knaresborough either for a coffee or an ice cream.

Well done to everyone, the pace was good and there was much talk of the Acorn ride on May 30th and the Wetherby-Filey in June. If you haven't registered for either make sure you do asap. Mileage about 35. Gia

Faster Medium Ride. There was an appropriate, (Easter Sunday last week,) almost religious silence as Gia asked for 2 volunteers to lead the 2 other medium rides.....so although I had only just returned to Wheel Easy I volunteered to lead the fast one.

Handed a route map without the opportunity for alteration to personally familiar roads led me to ask for help with the initial part. Up pedalled Dennis who ended doing most of the leading. Thank you. We started with 10, lost two and gained one by the time we reached the A658, then lost another two in the Walton trading estate.

It was a nice idea in that people could find a pace to suit but I doubt that the leader appreciated the changing numbers. That wasn't the plan. Although it became apparent that everybody was comfortable with where they were going as Dennis and I were left at the back near Cowthorpe wondering if the rest would like to do the add-on loop and deciding that they didn't.

At our only stop which was at Little Ribston there was a shout and half the group departed. Perhaps they were all so quiet first thing because we don't now need a leader. All in all a very nice cycle, flat until the return from Knaresborough and sunny from Tockwith. A typical day for this time of year of changing layers. Café stop was at the Waterside where Debbie did the mountain goat impression to take the photo. Jon P. (and Dennis really).

Five riders opted for the short ride. They were all tempted to join the medium ride but Peter, Phil and Mervyn all had other commitments and just wanted a short ride in order to get back home by 11. They even resisted the offer of stopping for coffee! The short ride saw the welcome return of Lynda for her first Wheel Easy outing this year.

We all complained about the cold but soon warmed up after hill climbs out of Pannal and Follifoot Road. At Follifoot Lynda was convinced she was getting warmth from the temporary traffic lights. After discussing possible additional mileage all opted to carry on to Plumpton Rocks and Calcutt.

Leaving Follifoot we were met with the great sight of the large group of medium ride cyclists making their way up to the village. At Knaresborough Lynda and Mervyn made their way home via the main road while Peter, Phil and I opted for the popular Beryl Burton track. Overall we covered 15 miles. Paul T

