

Sunday, April 26, 2009

Wheel Easy Ride Report No. 157



Sunday's long ride was curtailed to roughly 45 miles on account of Jill's legs; they pedalled over 100 miles the day before and needed an extra long stop at Spa Gardens Café. This gave the ride leader enough time to down a 'Full Monty Lunch'.

Unfortunately some passing seasoned behavioural observers, in the form of Norman, Terry and Dave, who witnessed the 'downing' tumbled to the fact that the 'downer' must be 'home alone' and that the ride was engineered to suit the leader. I couldn't possibly comment except to say that no one else volunteered to lead the ride!

Most admitted that it was a good ride in good weather incorporating two Nidd crossings, two Ure crossings and a crossing of the Ripon Canal. The moors Hartwith, Brimham, Pateley and Dallow were visited passing through Low Grantley, Aldfield, Fountains Abbey/Studley Park, Ripon and Boroughbridge. Bill

Medium Ride. The road was mostly grey but if you look carefully it is very speckled. The sky was very blue with those lovely puffy white clouds. White eggs that come from ducks usually have little speckles on them. We saw the usual things on our ride through Hampsthwaite and Kettlesing and up to Fewston Parochial Hall; bright yellow gorse, lambs and big sheep, ducks and even half naked men paddling in Swinsty reservoir, nothing strange for a Wheel Easy ride. We lost some we gained some, we had one new rider, welcome Richard, and we had a lovely tea break with snacks in aid of Unicef sitting in the gentle warm spring sunshine.

What I've never seen on a Wheel Easy ride is someone carrying six duck eggs and a loaf cake round Swinsty over Norwood and back to Harrogate. Lose the ballast and you'd have got up Swinsty Hill Jo. Paul R

Now here is the ride report for the slow medium ride for 26th April 2009, which followed the speedy medium at a polite distance. I have been moved to be mathematical this week, and am going to ignore the glorious sun, the superb scenery, Crawford's crafty traffic avoidance measures, the jolly company, the interesting bird watching facts (do you know for example that boy starlings have a blue bit on their lower beak area and girl starlings yes have a pink bit and curlews have curled beaks, and lapwings have tufty hairstyles), and the fact my inefficient leading and basic inability to know my left from my right nearly caused several accidents.

Hornbeam 9 + ? = the medium ride. A fast and a slow medium ride set off from Hornbeam Stray Rein 9 - 2 = 7 Jo and Alison zoomed off Knox 7 + 1 = 8 We met Crawford who'd popped home for a cup of tea Outside Killinghall 8 - 1 = 7 Phil left us, his knee had done far enough Hampsthwaite 7 + 2 = 9 Paul B joined us, and Alison rejoined us The Black Bull 9 - 1 nearly = 9 Caroline nearly ground to a halt Penny Pot Lane 9 - 2 = 7 Sue and Lawrie had an important bit of gardening to do Fewston turn off 7 - 3 = 6 pp Big piece of miscalculation somewhere as only Crawford, Sarah and Allison were lured away to the cakes of Fewston Village Hall. So I lost someone somewhere. Little Almscliffe 3 + 8 = 11 As Paul, Caroline and Sue enjoyed the views we were suddenly joined by several very sweaty panting members of the speedy medium ride, who were too full of cakes. To Moor Park 11 - 1 = 10 Paul goes home via the Park After Beckwithshaw 10 - 5 = 6 Notice more miscalculation again, Paul D leads Dennis and co home for their roasts. Up to Harlow Hill 6 - 2 = 4 Two speedy people speed off Turn to Harlow Carr 4 - 2 = 2 Paul P takes more phone numbers and Jo rushes off to tend her rhubarb Hornbeam 2 - 1 = 1 Caroline and Sue take the down hill route back to Hornbeam. And home to finish the London Marathon. Caroline G

The 'short ride' turned out to be a misnomer, with 2 new members Jillie and Stevie, and Lynda, all very much up for a suggested run out to Wetherby with Gia and me. We pedalled steadily to Burn Bridge, then along the A61 briefly before turning left along the welcoming peace and quiet of Walton Head Lane to Kirkby Overblow.

We stopped briefly to admire the fine new deli opened at the Shoulder of Mutton (Gia later noticed that there is also a new shop at The Scotts Arms in Sicklinghall) and then had a relaxed ride to Wetherby. Shortly after Sicklinghall, an unusually large group of speedy cyclists, perhaps 30-40, shot past us in the opposite direction. Many other cyclists of all abilities and ages were out and about enjoying the sunshine.

In Wetherby we stopped at The Cottage café near the Wharfe, then returned along the Harland Way to Spofforth, Follifoot, and along Rudding Lane to Wetherby Road. Just three were left for the final leg through the Great Yorkshire showground and Hookstone Woods to Hornbeam. All today's short riders did really well, and managed the 23 miles with plenty of energy to spare. Malcolm

