

Sunday, May 3, 2009

Wheel Easy Ride Report No. 158



A bright sunny day though windy and eleven riders chose the long ride. A new rider who was most welcome was Charles (from across the Atlantic) whose cycling experience seemed to cover most of the far corners of the world. The route being Rossett Green, Pannal, Spacey Houses, Kirkby Overblow and the superb ridge route from which Wharfedale on one side and the plain of York on the other can be seen. The weather this day affording great views. On to Sicklinghall and Wetherby where Malcolm was offered a coffee stop at one of his favourite cafés, this he declined - there's dedication for you!

Cycle path to Thorpe Arch then the A659 into Tadcaster, where the cyclists café was open, much to DP's relief. The café customers being estimated as 90% cyclists. After refreshment it was on to York, part way alongside the A64 then minor roads to Catterton and Askham Richard where Dennis M left us, on to the cycle path alongside the A64 to pick up the York/Selby cycle path this was taken as far as the Ouse Bridge, then we left it to take a minor road to Acaster Malbis. As we headed south the wind started to become a bit of a nuisance especially crossing the disused airfield of Acaster Malbis, on to Acaster Selby to see if the tidal surge was working, again no luck. So far not too bad a day for DP, He hadn't punctured and the cafés were open, so the wind and the tide made it 2-2 sort of a draw but then you can't win them all.

On to Appleton Roebuck just before Bolton Percy as if to compensate for the wind the D'Oyly's Café was open. The question was asked do we want a tea stop, this was met with an overwhelming yes, some might say what a silly question to ask. Tea was served in china cups and saucers (sort of thing my non cycling wife appreciates) food good, toilets excellent, highly recommended. On to Oxton and Taddy and Wighill taking Rudgate to Cowthorpe, then North Deighton and Spofforth, where Steve led the group on a "short cut?", the time

taken causing said ride leader to think they had called in the Pub. [In fact, the detour was to pass Steve's house, and wave to his wife as promised minutes earlier on his mobile - Ed.] For a moment rain threatened but Steve's nice new bike did not suffer and we couldn't find any muddy puddles to take him through. Ride could have been entitled Dave's mystery tour, a mystery to him and everybody else. A nice ride with lots of friendly banter and good humour. DP

Twenty riders opted for the medium ride. After a ragged start through traffic lights and roundabouts all met up at Low Bridge Knaresborough where we decided to split the group. Peter kindly offered to take a faster group so, armed with a vague set of instructions they sped off leaving the rest of us to follow at a more leisurely pace.

Taking a route towards Lingerfield, Mervyn demonstrated his cycling survival skills when his handlebar bag became detached and fell onto the front wheel - fortunately no serious damage to rider or cycle.

We meandered gently along enjoying the fine clear views via Arkendale and on to Upper & Lower Dunsforth carefully avoiding the tea shops! Onward to Aldborough where spotting the signpost, four lady riders headed off for the Fleshpots (or was it Coffee pots) in Boroughbridge.

The remaining six returning via Staveley where we briefly met up with the faster medium riders who had also succumbed to the lure of the Caffeine. (Not many miles to the gallon from these sporty jobs.) A very enjoyable ride on a fine spring day and for once the wind was behind us most of the way home. Dennis B.

Now here is the ride report for the short ride for 3 May 2009. Sadly this week the maths element is very limited, $1+1+1+1+1+1$ =the short ride and $6-2=4$ as Matt and his Mom (but it could be his sister) return to Knaresborough without another loop.

As the short riders gathered, some in the later stages of varying degrees of delapidation, we watched the long ride set off, exhibiting a new development in Wheel Easy riding the walk and bike push. We wondered if they would continue the whole ride in a similar way. Six short riders set off on their cycles towards the Asda path, (including an American visitor, Matt's Mom/sister) and noticed that the path was glass free despite Crawford and Dennis not having swept it for a week or so. We continued along the Beryl Burton Route to Knaresborough, with only one runner over taking us. With glorious sunshine and a following wind, we sped through Knaresborough and off at the first possible turn to Lingerfield, where we merged with another group who left us to go to Ripley. At Farnham everyone wanted to continue up the hill, after they had been inspired by tales of cycling round Britain on a Banana. Yes literally he kept it down his shorts, according to Sue who had been to see a talk by said rider.

Matt and his Mom/sister decided another loop was not as good an idea as a coffee stop and headed back to Knaresborough and home. Four enthusiastic riders continued to Staveley, well I say four, Crawford went the opposite way following some speedy rude cyclists, who had cut us up on the Boroughbridge back road, as they turned off to Copgrove, when we were not turning off. Thankfully we were reunited with Crawford who then retraced his steps back to Copgrove with us. We returned gently to Knaresborough at a steady pace, and despite Sue and Lynda's bid for another route we finally all turned off up Bar Lane, where we met two little boys who wondered why we were on bikes! They may well ask, perhaps they had been speaking to long riders who were trying to introduce the Sunday bike push.

After this Sue swallowed a fly," I don't know why she swallowed a fly, perhaps" etc. Crawford gallantly volunteered to prevent a disaster with mouth to mouth resuscitation. This caused a miraculous recovery, allowing her to have a photo opportunity, the results of which may or may not reach the screens of her cycling public.

We continued round the back of Knaresborough, along the Waterside and undertook to scale the hill to Calcutt as a group, until Crawford left us at Forest Moor, for a Marks & Spencer Meal for Two, which was to be served up shortly at Chez C. The Three Grans on Tour continued back to Harrogate, without pausing for breath and still chatting away. 25 miles door to door at a very leisurely average pace of about 8 miles an hour, or was it 9, as we were back by 12.30ish. CG



