

Sunday, June 7, 2009

Wheel Easy Ride Report No. 163 and Saturday off road ride



"Are you two on the medium ride?"

Long ride

Phil and Bill accepted the responsibility of leaders at short notice and with rain threatening. Phil led the group to Boroughbridge, Sessay and Balk.

On reaching the A170 Phil led an early returners group in the direction of Thirsk, while Bill led seven riders to the 'Gormire Gathering' at Thirlby. Cyclists meet at the village hall for lunch once a year; friends from Ripon and York also attend. Leaving Thirlby the group proceeded through Kilburn, Coxwold, Easingwold then over Aldwark Bridge and home via Ouseburn and Knaresborough without encountering a drop of rain. Bill

Medium ride

Where did it all go wrong?

The day started off well. I enjoyed my ride from Pannal to Hornbeam and was looking forward to leading a gentle ride to Boroughbridge. At 9.30 everything seemed fine as there were 25 medium riders and we split into two groups with Dave taking one group and myself the other. Between 9.30 and 1pm everything went wrong! I managed to return to Harrogate with only one rider. Where the other 23 went is anyone's guess! I take full responsibility for the poor organisation. As one rider said 'This would not have happened if Gia had been here'. I just hope the 23 managed to get back to their families and the Wheel Easy membership has not been dramatically reduced.

I would like to thank Mervyn for sticking with me and reinforcing every mile 'Paul you have

lost another'. The groups changed continually throughout the morning and I was glad to get back home with my own bike and the clothes I set off with.

For the information of those I lost, I went from Hornbeam via Forest Moor Road to Low Bridge Knaresborough, Ferrensby, Arkendale, Marton, Grafton, Aldborough and into Boroughbridge. In Boroughbridge I managed to find a few riders to have a coffee with. My new group set off home via Roecliffe, Copgrove, Knaresborough and I even managed to lose them. Thank you to Martin for helping out and your look of despair will stay with me for ever! Incidentally, I enjoyed my ride and I hope everyone else did. Paul T

At Knaresborough, Paul decided to split the medium group and Martin introduced a slightly brisker pace for 12 of us. We set off hoping to reduce the confusion between the short and medium rides, but still managed en-route to Boroughbridge to meet up at various points, which made for an interesting mix of riders trying to make up their minds who they should follow. Finally, a group of us, before getting to Boroughbridge added a few more miles before going to Lower Dunsforth. We then turned North up the wonderful back lane to Aldborough and Boroughbridge for refreshments. The return home was via the bridleway to Copgrove and Lingerfield.

What a surprisingly good day weather-wise! We were also delighted to have so many new faces in our group, including a tandem ridden by John and Hilary, which seemed to have added jet propulsion. Martin W

Hello here is the ride report from the very long and extremely speedy short ride, for Sunday 7 June 2009. The weather forecast had said showers and wind, but in reality the day was quiet and well behaved. Nine tall very speedy people opted for the short ride, because they all had urgent appointments at 1.30. So keen was the slow ride leader to set off for Boroughbridge and all points east, she set off in the wrong order (I apologise), and for the first part of the ride to Knaresborough thought she was leading a ride of forty speed merchants rather than a sedate group of shorter riders. The fast ride obviously could not keep up our pace and vanished in a different direction, thus avoiding any embarrassing overtaking, and the medium ride were uncontrollable, despite Paul's firm calm leadership, all trying to pretend to be on the short ride, until they took a wrong turn and sped off toward the A1.

Having returned to our gentle ambling, we turned towards Copgrove, and along the bridlepath towards Boroughbridge. Joe was propelled by the lure of a bacon and egg sandwich and Geraldine led him to the cafe in Boroughbridge, where we found them tucking into something tempting. Linda and Jean were unable to resist, and the five thin, lean members of the team abandoned them to scoff and continued back to Knaresborough via Minskip and Staveley, narrowly missing Max who had spied us passing through Boroughbridge and thought we had returned by Copgrove. Adding an extra loop he soon caught us up at the little one way drop down to the Farnham road.

We continued down Bar Lane where we admired the water fowl, and without effort ended up at Low Bridge Knaresborough deciding which hill to go up. So full of energy were we all, that the north face of Calcutt was chosen, John and Buck flying up so fast that Buck seemed to have taken off into space never to be again. (Hopefully not suffering the alien abduction fate of previous rides.) John, on loan from the Poddlers, showed us a virtually hill free way back to Wetherby Road where we went our separate ways, John and Sue D to a date with their bedding plants, nurse Sue to a bit of relaxation with Jenson Button before a night shift.

Max to win the Grand Prix, and the ride leader a rendezvous with a roast potato and four pansies. 29 gentle miles. CG

Saturday Off Road ride. The ground was well-prepared by 24 hours of torrential rain and the temperature was 6 degrees - flaming June as my mother would say. Richard, David, Paul and I set off promptly and were caught quickly by Ben on a single-speed mountain bike who just wanted to ride for an hour before going to work. Despite having an additional 26 gears the rest of us struggled with his pace up through the woods to Follifoot Ridge and were relieved when he turned off at Kirkby Overblow (actually not true as it would have been nice to have his good company for the rest of the morning - read on!).

Mud tyres would have been a good idea and the thermal vest and winter gloves were certainly a good choice but one not made by David who had dressed according to the calendar rather than the weather forecast! After several questions along the lines of 'are we half way yet?' we eventually got to the Wike gates into the Harewood Estate at which point Paul and David realised their parole conditions didn't allow them sufficient time to complete the whole route so they headed back via the A61. They missed the best bits (seeing the young deer a few feet in front of us in Harewood park and the red fox near Kearby) and the worst bit (wading in my case and riding bravely or foolishly in Richard's case through a tiny stream that had become a deep and raging torrent). We may do it again before the summer is out! Denis



