

Saturday, June 13, 2009

Great Yorkshire Bike Ride, Wetherby to Filey



I was all ready for an early start but it wasn't to be. I awoke at 9:15 and got ready and rushed to Wetherby where I arrived dead on 10:00am and registered. Fortunately I was the last one in the queue.

I was surprised that the crazy exercise woman was still encouraging me and a few others with crazy hand twisting! Anyway, we were off at 10:05 and for the first 2 miles I kept to the single file rule but soon had to break it with so many cyclists on the road. I soon found myself at Easingwold and still hadn't recognized anyone on the route.

At Castle Howard I met up with a cycle group from Leeds and joined them till the lunch stop. Wow! The speed we went at, and how a pack of 10 cyclists (and me) can pull you along. It was amazing! That was the highlight of my day.

After a ½ hour lunch of pasta and a cup of tea I was off again but soon found I got bored so started chatting to random people. One guy had one of the Boardman carbon bikes. He bought it at Halfords 6 months ago and said it was amazing for £s;900. The spec on it, in his view, was equivalent to a £s;2500 bike.

Near Helperthorpe I kept on seeing Mike Bissell up ahead. I finally passed him, then who else did I see in the distance but Gia! We chatted briefly before I pushed on. There was an amazing long downhill. The whole ride was a continuous day of overtaking. I must have passed over 1000 people and it was really great to see the mass of people enjoying the charity cycle ride. I was quite annoyed I missed the cake stop even though Gia said what ever you do don't miss that stop but I did - oh well!

Finally, Filey was 3 miles away. This last leg seemed to drag a bit but at last it was over. I met up with Wheel Easy and chatted, then we all departed, Malcolm on his way to ride back home and Dennis finishing his 17th ride- wow! - and Martin and Yvonne went off to find a hotel. I went down to the town to get a cup of tea and a teacake. God the price of the tea - 95p, wow! - but I won't be going back to Filey in a hurry.

But what can I say? What a ride, and a big thank you to all the organizers and marshals. What a day and what weather! That was one special ride!! Ben Cope

Four of us decided to make a weekend of it and stayed over at Filey to enjoy a more leisurely paced return ride on Sunday. So our arrival in Filey was celebrated with tea and delicious cakes overlooking the sea in Filey (much nicer than that crowded sweaty bus) and then we made our way to our hotels. Jill and Nick's B&B was fine, but..... shall we say we wouldn't recommend anyone to stay at our "hotel" at Hunmanby. The sunny start the next morning was great and we soon put all that behind us, having time to enjoy the views and the wonderful sunshine, coming back towards Harrogate. We had lunch at the Lavender Farm at Terrington, and made it back by about 5pm. Yes, we will definitely do it again, a fast ride out and a meander back was a good contrast. Jill, Nick, Martin and Yvonne.



