

Sunday, October 11, 2009  
**Wheel Easy Ride Report 181**

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#### Short Ride Report

Out of the 45 assembled at Hornbeam eight riders decided to opt for the short ride. After a brief discussion where it was pointed out to me that my planned route had been used several times in recent months (must remember to read the short ride reports when planning a ride!). So we modified our direction to make a big southern sweep around Harrogate to head for Knaresborough.

Within half a mile the drizzle started quite heavily and the leaders confident remark that it is just a shower was cast into doubt with it still raining at Burn Bridge. Stopping at Pannal Station to put on our waterproofs was a sure-fire way of getting the sun to come out - and it did! So we headed off past Pannal Golf Club and over the hill, then down Higgs Lane we reached Spofforth at some pace. From there it was past the sewage works (great ride planning of course) and into Little Ribston. Before long we were at the cafe on Waterside in Knaresborough for coffee and scones.

The return home was up the Beryl Burton Way and back into Harrogate along the back streets and over the Stray. 18 miles completed and well done to James, a new rider, who kept well on the pace. Martin W.

#### Medium Ride Report

Eleven riders set off to Fountains Abbey via Hampsthwaite, Shaw Mills, Bishop Thornton and Sawley. It was an excellent route with many hills and great views from the top. The group did extremely well cycling up the hills with gritted teeth and smiles. The loop to Sawley and the single track to Fountains was new to many of the riders. On approaching Fountains Trevor had his first puncture, luckily Joe was on hand to offer support whilst the rest opted for refreshments at the visitors' centre.

The return journey home via Ripley was certainly eventful with Trevor having three more punctures, a rider falling off his bike and the ride leader going up and down Watergate Road three times looking for cyclists. However, it was a great ride with good company and tremendous support from a bike mechanic by the name of Joe. Paul T

#### Medium Ride Plus Report

Although the day started with blue skies, the rain was just beginning to fall as we rode off from Hornbeam Park for Knox Mill with a group of 13. By the time we had reached the other side of town it was chucking it down and attrition started as one rider peeled off waving through the rain, "I'm going home. I'll go out this afternoon when the sun's out". Within 5 minutes that rain had stopped! Killinghall brought a father and son potty break - they agreed to drop back to the second group who were already heading up the road towards us. Through Hampswaite and the hills began. A couple more fell back to the chasing group. There were nine of us when we reached the church at Sawley. As agreed, we waited for Paul who was to show us a route down a quiet lane. It turned out that Claire had lived in Sawley and knew the lane. The desire to get to the café was overwhelming and we headed off, riding along a beautiful leafy lane then swooping down through Fountains Abbey and into Ripon for the required break at Spa Gardens, the best value café stop in England. I called Paul on his mobile to explain where we were but went to voice mail. He must have been labouring up a hill somewhere. Back on the bikes and through Bishop Monkton and Knaresborough to home by which time the sun was shining brightly. Ian

#### Long Ride Report

Seven set out on the long ride Dennis, James, James C, David, Bill, Mark & Chris. The forecast was for fair weather but we experienced drizzle which gave way to cloudy but bright at Ripley and from Fountains Abbey we were bathed in glorious sunshine for the rest of the ride. We visited Kirkby Malzeard, Grewelthorpe, Masham Leighton Reservoir and the superb climb over the moors to Lofthouse, Pateley Bridge, Yorke's Folly, Little Almscliffe and Beckwithshaw. Refreshments were taken at Masham and Pateley Bridge. One member of the peloton lost both crank and pedal between Fountains and Kirkby, fortunately the parts were found and two other members had the requisite 8mm tools; alas one proved too short. Gentlemen make sure your 8mm tools are long enough, sorry ladies. We arrived back in Harrogate about 4.00pm having covered 56 miles with splendid scenery and great company. Unfortunately no photos were taken as nobody had a camera. Bill and David

#### Off Road Ride Report

Five blokes and a blonde set off in the drizzle and three and a half hours later the five blokes and the blonde returned to Hornbeam Park in glorious sunshine, having enjoyed a good ride and good company. It was sufficiently technical to cause two riders to fall off, with one shedding a little blood, but in general it was all do-able. Sadly no photos because I forgot my camera, but smiling faces all round! Denis K

