

Sunday, November 8, 2009  
**Wheel Easy Ride Report 185**

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#### Short Ride Report

Eleven riders went on the short ride around the south part of Harrogate. We were joined by Miras and Charles who were new to Wheel Easy. Darren opted to be back marker and throughout the ride was brilliant at encouraging the group and for carrying out emergency bike repairs.

From Hornbeam we went through Pannal, Burn Bridge and up the steep Hill Top Lane towards Beckwithshaw. After a brief rest in the Smith's Arms car park we continued along the B6161 and the long climb to the 'top of the world'. As can be seen from the photographs we all managed to cycle up without stopping. Once at the top, our reward was the views and the freewheel back to Burn Bridge. We had hoped to make Pannal Church for the 11am Remembrance Day silence but had to make do with the Black Swan car park. After the minute silence Joe was on hand to adjust gears.

As everyone was enjoying the ride, we continued to Kirkby Overblow and then onto Crimple Garden Centre for coffee and refreshments. It proved to be a good stop and the weather enabled us to sit outside viewing the plants. Unfortunately the group leader forgot his money, but was rescued by Angela and Gaye. After refreshments we all cycled up Almsford Bank back to Hornbeam. It was a lovely ride and a special well done to Miras and Charles who managed 15 miles with a few challenging hills for their first of, hopefully, many Wheel Easy rides. Paul T

#### Medium Ride Report

These Medium Riders are a cheerful and chatty lot! Setting off from Hornbeam and heading for Knox Village, I could hear the conversations going at full-strength. There is no doubt people look forward to their rides and enjoy the company.

From Knox Village we paused in Hampsthwaite before climbing up Clint Bank and taking photos. My ambition is to get a photo in the Guardian Weekend Supplement when they feature readers' photographs on the theme of "Green" - probably to come out in a few weeks time. A group of four was soon encouraged to leave us and go on ahead at this point as they had some decent bikes, and more importantly decent legs! After Burnt Yates we stopped for a Remembrance Sunday Minutes Silence, and then climbed steadily to Brimham Rocks. Chris Delf was spotted repairing a puncture but he soon followed us and then set off in pursuit of the medium plus. There was some relief when I announced that that was the end of the big climbs and very soon we were swooping down through Warsill on one of the longest downhill stretches in our area. At Bishop Thornton four of our group took the quick way home while the rest of us went to Cascades Garden Centre, to suffer at the hands of some rather officious waitresses but the hot drinks were very welcome on this chilly day. (Sticky Wicket café, we do miss you - come back soon).

On the home stretch past Knaresborough we met up with the medium plus ride, with more chats, before heading home after a lovely 32-mile ride. Martin W

#### Medium Plus Ride Report

Call this the 9-10-14-8-7-20 ride. We set out from Hornbeam with 9 riders, picked up 1 more at Knox, acquired 4 from the Official Medium ride after Hampsthwaite, detached them again and others after Wilsill, lost 3 near Sawley but regained them again at Ripon and managed to shepherd the 7 (Peter had turned off at Burton Leonard - well, fair enough if you live there) back to Starbeck before intermingling with the Official Mediums again at the Golf Club - where I lost count!

Fairly speedy ride from Hornbeam to Knox, Hampsthwaite, Clint and Burnt Yates as the weather progressively became warmer, or maybe that was the hills. Anyway, in Hampsthwaite we temporarily dropped Malcolm due to his 'having to take all his clothes off in Hampsthwaite' (verbatim as it was told to the Ride Leader). Pressing on out of Burnt Yates up towards Brimham Rocks we reached the crossroads below the rocks at precisely 11:00 and respected the 2-minute silence. With renewed legs we made the final few climbs to maximum altitude for the day before the long-promised 3-mile downhill to the T-junction where 6 riders went right to Markington to rejoin the Medium ride while 8 turned left for the extra hills towards Sawley (the descent and climb from Hebden Wood being the the biggest) and the rear entrance of Fountains Abbey (quite a modest climb by comparison). Without the Sawley-3 (you know who you are ), 5 riders swooped down through Studley Park with local Red, Fallow and Sika deer batting not an eyelid. We re-united as 8 in the Spa Gardens cafe - along with dozens of cyclists from various clubs including Leeds Mercury (I bet they came the easy way though).

As if by telepathy the Leader headed back home through Littlethorpe, coinciding with the unspoken wishes of several riders, Copgrove and then Farnham and Scriven to occupy a few more sunny minutes. Forty one miles or thereabouts. Peter Lawley

#### Long Ride Report

It was an overcast & chilly start as the long ride headed off to Masham. We started with 12 riders, but it was a day of fluctuating numbers. We headed out through Hampsthwaite & Burnt Yates & lost our first person on the way to Brimham Rocks. Chris D had a puncture & was quite happy to fix it & either catch up later or join up with one of the medium rides. Just after Brimham Rocks we stopped to observe the 2 minute silence at 11am for

Remembrance Day. Then it was onwards - down to Fellbeck & up again to Dallow Moor. Here we gained an cyclist, Liz, out for a ride on her own recognised the group of cyclists as Wheel Easy & pedalled furiously to meet up with us - so now we were 12 again. We continued across the moor, down to Laverton & Kirkby Malzeard & at Grewelthorpe we lost one more person, Chris S., needing to get home for other duties. At Masham we had a very welcome stop at the very busy Bordar House café.

After refreshments we were rejoined by Chris D who had fixed his puncture & got to Masham by a slightly different route. Our return was a brisk ride via West Tanfield, Wath, Ripon, where a couple of people headed off, while the remaining 10 continued home via Bishop Monkton & Knaresborough. An enjoyable ride of approximately 55 miles. Jill F



