

Sunday, December 6, 2009
Wheel Easy Ride Report 189



Thirty three riders ignored the 8.45am rain and made their way to Hornbeam. By 9.30 the rain had stopped and everyone was looking forward to their ride. This morning Wheel Easy offered a choice of six rides!

Short Ride Report

Six riders went on the short ride around the south part of Harrogate. We were joined by Chris who was new to Wheel Easy. From Hornbeam we went through Pannal, Burn Bridge and up the steep Hill Top Lane towards Beckwithshaw. We continued along the B6161 and the long climb to the 'top of the world'. Unfortunately Chris was finding winter riding not to his liking and decided to return home promising to return in the spring. Once at the top, our reward was the views and the freewheel down Briscoe Ridge Lane and Brackenthwaite Lane back to Burn Bridge.

As everyone was enjoying the ride, we continued to Kirkby Overblow and then onto Crimple Garden Centre for coffee and refreshments. Once again it proved to be a good stop and the weather enabled us to sit outside viewing the Christmas trees. After refreshments the group cycled up Almsford Bank back home. It was a lovely 15 miles ride with a few challenging hills. Paul T

Medium Ride Report

It all started so well. The torrential rain was clearing as stated by metnet and the in house weatherman. Nice Mr. Tindle wished everyone a good morning and explained where our groups were going and where we should stand. The medium medium and long medium left the far car park, and the slow medium three started their demure departure. We tried to keep in the slip stream of El Butler's group, as we sped from a medium medium slow long medium mingle at Low Bridge Knaresborough, towards Farnham. The sun was trying to

shine and fleeces needed removing, before we reached the Farnham incline. As we flashed past Burton Leonard on the horizon, a lone figure in florescent yellow could be seen heading towards Bishop Monkton. The purpose and determination could only come from a Wheeleasy member, yes it was Paul B., who had finally managed to meet up with a group of W.E. riders going in the direction and at a pace he wanted. Now we were four. We were proud of the effective use of computer web site communication. He revealed that El Butler was, surprisingly, only a minute or so ahead of us. Would we get to Boroughbridge before they had eaten all the scones? I should not have worried with the mystery pink lady on hand.

At Bishop Monkton we turned right towards Boroughbridge along a road that was closed due to flooding. If medium medums could pass over flooded rivers so could we. Well, they had not retraced their steps, and as we splashed and paddled through the ever increasing ponds and rivers which should have been road, we did not notice any yellow flourescence floating in the water. They had either been washed away, or fought their way on to the cafe stop in Boroughbridge. We noticed a pile of bikes at the first cafe in Boroughbridge as we arrived at the main square in bright sunshine with no wind. Looking more closely in the cafe window we noticed El Butler sitting at a cafe table, with a mixed group of fast and medium riders, a rather unusual sight. Noone had their coffee and cakes yet, so perhaps they had not eaten them all as feared. Dennis thought we might be bringing more than four riders in, having lost several of his group and found several from another group. It was clear people had no idea who was medium tall medium, long medium short fat medium, big bulky medium, and goodness knows where half of the medium medium medium and long medium short long had got to.

At this point things disintergrated in the amethyst mauve toileted cafe. The woman in pink who must be nameless, started causing trouble. She was seen ripping off Paul B's trousers, and then taking Norman's coffee and his rock bun no less. She had to be removed and sent home the quick way before she became any more over excited. So the demure medium slow four left the medium mixed fast longer medium to El Butler's strict firm leadership as he announced they had spent far too long in this cafe, and would have to loose a loop, as he needed to get back for 12 30 as lunch would be on the table. They were only allowed to go to Lincoln, The Wash, and King's Lynn on the way home and could not visit Sleaford this week. So fuelled with other people's drinks and food the four peddled off to do abit of shopping in Morrison's,(the Blackham cat needed non tuna catfood or would starve to death). By this time the sun had disappeared, the rain was raining and a biting cold wind had sprung from nowhere threatening to be in our faces the whole way home, so another clothing change was required. We did a very quick dash from Morrison's Boroughbridge via Minskip to Knaresborough congratulating ourselves on cleverly choosing the short way home. Paul B left the group at Farnham and the remaining three short mediums swam back through the River Barr Lane and back along Abbey Road, and were led by David, up the main road hill out of Knaresborough back towards Harrogate at speed. It was with trepidation that I left the mystery pink lady in the care of David who volunteered to escort her back to Hornbeam. Hopefully all the medium people, short, long, speedy, slow, demure, tall, or whatever got home eventually today. 32 very jolly miles despite conditions.

Caroline G

Medium Plus Ride Report

At Hornbeam Park the medium group sorted itself into three: slow medium, medium medium and medium plus, the latter consisting of a small elite group of Bill and me. With only two of us communication and decision-making were simple and while the others followed the prescribed route to Boroughbridge via Bishop Monkton we elected to go via

Staveley. At this point we found that four others had joined us and a little later Glyn, a new Wheel Easy member, fell in with us. When we disappeared into the café at Boroughbridge a drizzle was falling but when we emerged again, it was as if we had been in a time warp - the sun was shining! We headed south with the sun in our eyes and the wind in our faces on what turned out to be a very pleasant ride through Great and Little Ouseburn, Whixley, Cattal, Cowthorpe, Little Ribston and Knaresborough. Ian

Long Ride Report

Eight long riders set out with well founded optimism on a grey, dreary morning heading for a 25% climb up the fearsome White Horse bank going out via Boroughbridge, Milby and Sessay. As we approached the famous landmark we discovered that it is no longer white but a sort of washed out grey matching the weather.

Geoff left us at Kilburn claiming a lunch appointment but the rest of us laboured up the hill to the gliding club where we took the photograph. The last time a Wheel-Easy ride came this way there was a foot of snow on the ground and on this occasion within minutes of taking the picture it began to hail! We hurried on to the Sutton Bank visitor for lunch noting that the gliding club claims to be open for lunches - maybe we'll try it next we come this way.

We returned to Harrogate via Bagby and Dalton being marshalled by Malcolm into a slick well-oiled cycling machine, riding as a bunch with two riders on the front changing places every few miles. Although this didn't seem natural to our normal anarchic rag, tag and bobtail style of riding it was, I think, enjoyed by all and was certainly an easier way to progress against the increasing head-wind.

Throughout the afternoon the weather continually improved and we arrived back in Harrogate just as it was beginning to get dark having enjoyed an epic 70 miles of fine winter riding. Phil

Off Road Ride Report

We all gathered at Hornbeam Park and though I was sceptical whether anyone would join me on the ride I was wrong - three other 'hard' people joined me for one of the last off road rides before the next decade '2010'.

My original route was changed due to heavy rain over the past week, but that ride will be saved for the spring. We set off with the aim of doing a quick circuit round via Knaresborough and Crimple Valley where the river was full to its banks and the mud was crazy. We passed the Travellers Rest and then went down Forest Moor Road and through the woods to the Lido Caravan Park, over the farmland to Goldsborough and then over the railway line at Hay-a-Park. On the way back to Knaresborough we met Denis Kay out on a quick solo ride.

I felt it was time for coffee and we stopped for cappuccinos, tea cakes and chocolate cake. After refuelling we set off for the footbridge near the Beryl Burton Way only to find it was out of use as the floods had moved it half a metre downstream. After inspecting the damage we crossed the river the usual way up the path to Bilton and we made our way home. Another classic off road ride with mud, a dash of rain and approximately 17 miles covered before 12.30pm. Ben Cope

Please note: The footbridge across the River Nidd at Conygham Hall, which links up with the

Beryl Burton Path has been badly damaged by floods - the central span has moved about 1 foot downstream. Clearly it will be out of action for a long time pending rebuild.

