

Sunday, January 24, 2010

Wheel Easy Ride Report 196



Short

Ride

Report

What a very promising start to a ride. The rain started to stop, and the riders were all ready to set off anywhere I chose to take them. I realised by Forest Moor, that this was a perfectly behaved group. No one was overtaking me on the hills in a humiliating manner, everyone was following beautifully. Even when I was not sure of the path after Knaresborough, no one complained and they all followed! We headed in a sedate line to Little Ribston and decided to take an extra loop towards Kirk Deighton, before we swooped down into Spofforth, ready for the challenge of the North Face of Follifoot. Everyone managed this easily, and Charles despite stopping for several whiskies it is Burns Night, and a couple of cigarettes, did brilliantly after a 6 week stand down. Maris and Angela are now pondering on medium rides, so pleased they were of their hill climbing. We powered down Rudding Lane and up the otherside of the slope with Sarah E shouting gleefully that the traffic lights were on green, and this had never happened to her before. The opportunity half way up the hill to turn left towards the Traveller's Rest was a joy and we followed the path back to the show ground. This well behaved group posed quietly for photos next to the new footpath gate and did not get out of hand when they realised they were nearing Hornbeam again. Sarah kindly took those that wanted to go to Hornbeam back through Hookstone Woods, and probably for a quick sit in a cafe and Charles accompanied me towards the Stray. Thank you everyone for making the ride very pleasant. Sadly the photos did not come out as I was happily and unknowingly taking videos instead of photos. Home in time to make Sunday lunch for an abandoned weekend guest. 17.83 miles with 5 people. Caroline G

Medium Ride Report

Fifteen regular riders opted for the medium ride and we were joined by Emma for her first ride. We were all pleased to see Malcolm M join us as we were setting off. Our first stop was in Knaresborough where we met up with Terry and Norman who were out for a ride by themselves. We continued to Farnham where we split into two groups and each group made their way to Boroughbridge. One group went via Staveley and Minskip, the other, led by Malcolm, via Arkendale and Grafton. The café did well to accommodate our group and another from

Swaledale.

After refreshments we made our way back to Harrogate via either Arkendale or Roecliffe and Bishop Monkton. Once again a great ride covering 30 miles! Paul

Medium Plus Ride Report

With leadership of the group thrust upon me by Paul T (reparation for buzzing off home early from Paul's group last week or just standing in the wrong place at the wrong time?) a small but seasoned band of six set off to Low Bridge. I soon mastered the art of delegation thanks to Malcolm (our very own Bradley Wiggins) being in the lead whenever I was uncertain of which way to Ripon - which was quite often! Jamie, Carl and I tried manfully to keep pace, whilst Paul, having left his road bike at home for fear of dirtying it, heroically took the role of back-marker with Sue kindly keeping him company, with the pair overtaking the rest of us with a 'yahoo' at every stopping point. Amusing sight of the afternoon saw Malcolm chasing a 'poop poop' moped up a steep incline and - so he declared - nearly taking him at the top! Arrived at Ripon Spa gardens to find it dark and deserted, so off to Dish's by the Cathedral for a good value coffee and teacake for £s;1.99. Sue very impressed with the amount of butter and jam that appeared. Then off on a refreshingly new route for me out of Ripon via Sharow and Skelton to Boroughbridge, passed by a motley percussive orchestra of car horn fixated morons. We cheered up as we were joined at Sandy Bank by Malcolm escorting new member Emma, before setting off for our first inexorable, anguished ascent of the year up Knaresborough Road - it can only get easier!?? All in all 39 very enjoyable miles for the six original members. William

Long Ride Report

The weather forecast was for showers for much of the day, but there were still eleven people who set off on the long ride. Heading out through Knaresborough, Wetherby and round the south side of Harrogate the planned destination was Ilkley - to be a gentle ride out with the hills saved for the homeward route. Ignoring the comment that "we'd done 23 miles & were still only 6 miles from Harrogate" we continued through Kirkby Overblow, Dunkeswick. Weeton, Castley, Farnley & Otley - a route we usually ride in the opposite direction. A couple of people mentioned the newish Cock Pit Farm café and it was decided to stop there for refreshments rather than carry on to Ilkley. After a very satisfying stop - a pleasant welcome & good value, we then tackled the main hill of the day, climbing up from Askwith & back via Fewston, with just a moment of indecision on the part of the ride leader who couldn't remember which was the right turning! At Pennypot Lane we had our section of off road riding as ignoring the road closed & diversion signs we enjoyed a quiet section without traffic where the road was being resurfaced. A good ride, the rain had held off & we completed approx 45 miles and back in Harrogate by 2.30pm. Jill

2010 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 1276 YTD 2499

