

Sunday, January 31, 2010

Wheel Easy Ride Report 197



Short Ride Report
Today's short ride proved to be quite popular with 8 riders opting for a ride in and around Harrogate. There had been some frost over night and in places some quite heavy patches. One would almost think the snow had returned! At a nice steady pace we left Hornbeam, along Leadhall Lane, through St George's Cricket Ground and the nearby estate. Cutting through Greengate and out the other end onto Cardale Park towards Burn Bridge. This was the point of no return as from here we headed off on to the Leeds bound A61 but turned off on to the track towards Kirkby Overblow. We reached Kirkby Overblow in good time for the ride leader's afternoon appointment and headed off on to the southern by-pass. We cycled past Rudding Golf Club and Rudding Park Hotel which has been named the UK's Best Hotel as well as making the Top 10 Luxury Hotels in the World list! After the deadly traffic lights which were on red again.... the group turned left towards the Traveller's Rest to try out the recently opened cycle path Here the ride leader said her good-byes whilst her pack went for a quick coffee at "Fodders". David S was ably left in charge. Sue T

Click on slide show for all today's photos

Medium Ride Report
Twelve riders set off to Otley via Kirkby Overblow, Dunkeswick, Weeton, Castley and Pool. Dennis and Paul left us at Pool and returned via Leathley, Stainburn, North Rigton, and Beckwithshaw, The original plan was to have coffee in Otley but we continued to the excellent Cock Pit Farm café in Weston. I was one of those leaders today who really couldn't make up her mind which ride I was going to lead. Paul was immensely patient with me while I dithered and Martin seemed quite happy to lead the faster group and we agreed to meet at the Cock Pit Farm café in Weston. About twenty of us descended on the café at more or less the same time but the owner didn't get in a flap(jack!) and with Yvonne, Sarah and Gia helping out as waitresses we all got served and the cakes were delicious.

Finally I clarified my role for the day and took Terry, Sarah, Trevor, Joe, Geraldine and Neil back to Harrogate via Leathley. I think there was a suggestion that this was the easier route home but not sure about that. It is certainly character building but with the sun shining and fabulous views the climbs were well worth it. A great ride and a nice change to ride going via Castley and Pool. 34 miles 7 riders. Gia

Medium Plus Ride Report
 Thirteen started in Martin's group on the same route as the Medium Ride, who passed us as a result of our leader's puncture on the farmer's fresh hedge clippings at Weeton. After this, we made good progress to Weston, overtaking the Mediums as they tried out the facilities at the Garden Centre in Otley. From the café, some took the Leathley route home while others kept to the original plan via Askwith Moor, Timble and Stainburn Woods. One couldn't bear the thought of going home until the sun went down, and carried on to Blubberhouses, Thruscross, Pateley, Brimham Rocks and back down to Burnt Yates and Hampsthwaite.

Long Ride Report
 Eleven riders left Hornbeam into a chilly north westerly light wind heading for Burnsall. Going down Penny Pot Bank fingers and toes were getting very cold from the wind chill. Peter decided to head off home with mechanical problems and a bad hamstring. One down ten to go! Penny Pot Lane was closed due to resurfacing work but ignoring the signs we decided to push on. It was nice to ride this section with no cars flying up and down. At the end of Penny Pot we turned towards Fewston then West End. This is a magnificent road, with a few stiff climbs but traffic free, and in the winter sun the views up the valley were stunning. We eventually reached the famous Duck Street. Does any one know why it's called Duck Street? [See below] After a short rest and a chance to catch our breath, Chris and Dennis decided they had to be home early and went on ahead turning off towards Pateley Bridge. Two more gone eight to go! Onwards into a cold, westerly wind and a very fast descent down past Stumps Cross. There was a request for coffee but as Burnsall was just down the road I decided to press on. We regrouped again at the turning for Appletreewick where a marvellous view of Simon's Seat greeted us as we again descended down into the valley. The wind seemed to ease and it was a gentle ride through to Appletreewick and on to Burnsall. The café was very busy but after a bit of shuffling about we all were seated and the food and drink was ordered. The baked beans portions are excellent and Jill left a large portion untouched. I also didn't manage to eat them all. 1pm saw us back outside and mounting up for the climb up to Burnsall Fell. Once at the top we were treated to a fast descent all the way down towards Bolton Abbey where we again regrouped and headed off down the back road to Ilkley. There was some discussion at Askwith as to the final route back. I decided it was going to be more hills and we all tackled the steep hill out of Askwith and back towards Timble and Penny Pot Lane. Three riders decided to go back over Little Almscliffe and home. Fifty five very hilly miles. With a lot of the morning route being part of the White Rose Challenge all riders did very well indeed. Rider of the day goes to Glyn, whilst bringing up the rear on the hills he never once moaned and always had a smile on his face at the top of the hills. Well done mate it was a bit of a tough one but believe me HILLS ARE YOUR FRIEND THEY MAKE YOU STRONGER. Malcolm Yates

2010	Wheel	Easy	Miles	(approx)	Today	1506	YTD	4733
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Information on the origin of the name Duck Street
 On the "old maps" web site the name appears on the 1854 map, but it isn't the name of the road. It refers to the group of cottages about 300 metres south of Greenhow and they are called Duck Street. In fact the road has been straightened at that point and when riding past you can see the old road, now a driveway to these houses but with a gate. It is probably still a public highway if

anyone is determined to try to get through. So the origin goes back before 1854, but my memory fades a bit at that point. According to the current OS map the road from Greenhow is actually called Duck Street Lane. But after the cottages going south it changes to Redlish Road or Blake Gate. - Martin

