

Sunday, March 21, 2010

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 204



Short

Ride

Report

The vernal equinox - and just as the divine Paul Hudson had foretold, "A glorious spring day"! Following on from last Sunday's short ride where the Heights of Timble were scaled by new riders to Wheel Easy, I did feel my plans might be termed "Downes Dawdle" and would have no takers. Nevertheless, ten of us left Hornbeam, carefully turning right through the Park and thereby avoiding the fast and medium riders who were facing a red light. Fulwith Mill Lane and Daleside were taken at a magnificent lick with Phil H kindly acting as back-marker. Sadly, by the time we reached the junction with Otley Road, Phil was having technical problems and had to turn back. James very kindly agreed (small debt of a Bettys tea owed, I think!) to take over the all important role of keeping the group together and nine of us continued at a good pace (ie with sufficient breath for talking!) to Little Almscliffe and hence to Penny Pot Lane where Laurie, discovering that his troublesome heels had now sprouted wings, shot off into oblivion. By this time we had encountered innumerable groups of cyclists, a convoy of ice cream vans and a posse of police vehicles. One hesitates to suggest a connection between the latter and the "Long Distance Laurie"

...

Those of us denied such physical attributes continued to the Hampsthwaite turn where the decision to take the longer of the two return options was agreed by all and we returned to Hornbeam via West, Hollins, Grainbeck and Knox Mill Lanes - all looking and sounding very seasonal. Kevin, James, Monica and Gay left at different junctures for the joys of Sunday and filial duties and Debbie, Caroline and Linda returned via Rayleigh Road to Horn beam - a total of 22 glorious miles. Of note is the kindness of car drivers at the crossings on the Skipton and Ripon Roads - on both occasions all riders crossed together in safety - ably marshalled by James. Thanks to all who came and, Laurie, I hope you reached home!!! Sue D

Click on slide show for all today's photos

Medium

Ride

Report

The medium ride to Beningbrough Hall attracted seventeen riders. The ride out went via Knaresborough, Farnham, Ferrensby, Arkendale, Great Ouseburn and Aldwark Bridge. We returned home via Aldwark Bridge, Thorpe Underwood, Whixley, Cattal, Cowthorpe, Little Ribston, Spofforth, and Follifoot. Although 44 miles was long for a medium ride, a good percentage of it was fairly flat. Simon joined us for his first ride and was surprised and pleased to see one of his former high school teachers on the same ride. David was on his first ride on his new bike, which he was really pleased with and wished he had bought it a while ago instead of persevering with his mountain bike. . It was a lovely morning and we were wind assisted on the way out but found cycling against the wind harder on the return. As we all preferred a steady pace we stayed together as a group with Gia and Bridget as back markers. It was an enjoyable ride and the only low point was being caught by Malcolm as I led the group the wrong way on the one way entry road to Beningbrough Hall. Paul

Medium Plus Ride Report

This was the day of the U-Bend. It started well. I was installed as emergency Medium Plus leader and was momentarily alarmed as a chorus of voices announced they were all up for the Medium Plus. It sounded like everyone was doing it, but when 'she who must be' sent us to our post we found that we were in fact just 13 strong, though some visibly a lot stronger than others. We regrouped at Low Bridge and I floated the idea that we should consider splitting into two groups, with myself leading the slower group. I looked longingly at William, pleading with him to head the speedies, all to no avail, and the general view seemed to be that things would sort themselves out. What actually happened was that in little more than the blink of an eye the athletes (William, ex racers Ian, new Ronnie and Paul on his Boardman, Dave, Mark et al) disappeared out of sight up Abbey Road. We did at some point briefly pass them as they attended to something on Mark's bike, but in no time they flashed by again and that was the last we saw of them until lunch.

Our group of six - John, Steve W, Helen, me, Steve P and his sister Clare who was visiting from Bali - had a great ride with a following wind through Farnham and Arkendale to Great Ouseburn where Darren was waiting as planned to join us. Soon afterwards we arrived in the sunshine at Beningborough where some of us took advantage of the Open Day and free entry to sample the excellent café within the walls while the majority of Wheel Easy cyclists could be seen a little further on taking refreshment at the apparently equally excellent Farm Shop. After pausing for a multigroup 'throng' photo outside the Hall, the six of us pedalled the legal way out of Beningborough and round the park, arriving back at the Newton on Ouse entrance to find the majority had somehow got there ahead of us. Paul suggested they had reversed back out along the one way system, but I didn't entirely believe him. The ride back was a little harder work against the wind, but we all felt the benefit. Darren left us at Ouseburn, Steve P and Clare at Spofforth, and I parted with Steve W and Helen at Follifoot to head up the by pass to Pannal. Total distance about 45 miles. A fine day, if only I hadn't then decided to tackle that U-Bend.....but that's another story! Malcolm

Long Ride Report

The promise of a steady pace seemed to attract some extra riders this morning as ten people set off for the long ride to Bedale. Leaving Harrogate via Bilton & Knox Mill we headed towards Hampsthwaite. Here it was decided that we would split into two groups with Phil leading a faster group of Dave R, Chris & Eric while the other six; Jill, Angela, Bill, Dan, Dave P & Roy would follow at a more sedate pace. Onwards & up Clint Bank when Dave & Roy decided they would opt for a gentler ride so it was just four who set off again to Shaw Mills, Fountains Abbey, Winksley & Kirkby Malzeard. From here we took a less familiar road, but hilly road through Ringbeck heading for Swinton Park & Masham., a great scenic section with hardly any traffic. Then it was just a few more miles to the planned lunch stop at Bedale, but several mobile phone calls, a wrong turning by two members of the group & hunger pangs made this section seem more miles than the road signs were showing. We all finally reached Bedale to meet up with the faster group, who had now been joined by Peter B, not in the café as expected, but sitting on a bench outside Spar

supermarket having not found any cafes open. The "steady pace" group decided against the al fresco option & went across the road for a pub lunch where one cyclist managed to eat a three course meal & still cycle home afterwards! We were rejoined here by Dave P & Roy who had taken a different route with an extra café stop to reach Bedale. After lunch it was a fairly speedy return to Harrogate via Thorp Perrow, Snape, Carthorpe, Kirklington, Wath & Ripon. Here the group split again with Dave P, Bill & Roy opting for an extra tea stop & the remaining 3 heading back through Littlethorpe, Bishop Monkton, Knaresborough & home. About 66 miles in total - plenty of hills, but a nice easy run home to finish. Jill F

2010	Wheel	Easy	Miles	(approx)	Today	2230	YTD	21372
------	-------	------	-------	----------	-------	------	-----	-------



