

Sunday, March 28, 2010

Wheel Easy Ride Report 205



Short Ride Report

Only five riders chose to accompany me on the short ride today, Crawford, Tall John, Paul, with electro-bike Peter and the only lady, Evelyn, on her first Wheel Easy ride. Setting off at a nice gentle pace assisted by a mainly following wind we followed the popular route via Calcutt and Abbey Road on to York Road and Goldsborough. After successfully crossing the A39 (this is the advantage of a small group), we ambled along enjoying the spring countryside via Coneythorpe to Arkendale where we took a slight diversion to watch the start of the 10km running race.

Back on route through Ferrensby and into the wind by now, saying goodbye to Paul on his way back to Killinghall, we took the more sheltered roads along Bar Lane and back along Abbey Road and Waterside where we ended the ride and returned home our various ways. A pleasant ride on a fine Spring morning. Dennis B. 6 x 25 Miles

Click on slide show for all today's photos

Medium Ride Report

Once again the medium ride proved popular with eighteen riders leaving Hornbeam in two groups of nine. Once out of Harrogate both groups met up at the Squinting Cat and then continued as one group to Stainburn Woods. Even at this early stage the wind was making it difficult for us and by the time we reached Fewston we all felt we had cycled much further than we really had. Morale dropped to an all time low when the road to Timble and Fewston Parochial Hall were both closed. The majority of the group needed coffee and preferred the option of returning to the Valley Gardens. However Helen, Keith, Alison, James and Linda decided to continue battling against the wind and informed Max, the excellent back marker, before disappearing over the horizon. Morale picked up on our return down Pennypot Lane as the wind was behind us. Enthusiasm got the better of Caroline, Peter and Sue as decided they needed more miles and set off towards Hampsthwaite. The remainder of the group continued for well deserved refreshments at Valley

Gardens. It turned out to be a short ride of only 20 miles. Paul

The Famous Five Medium Ride Report

It was decision time at Timble Crossroads. The main peloton had decided to head for Valley Gardens and home but a few of us thought we would extend the day and bask in sunshine for a bit longer. Max took a message up to the front of the Peloton that five of us were revolting, and we whisked off to the car park and toilets at Fewston Reservoir - The Five, being Keith, me, Alison, Linda and James.

Just to prove we do all listen attentively to Martin, we had with us a map, compass, tools, inner tubes and a few brain cells. After a democratic discussion we concluded that it was a bad idea to go along the main road to Otley in the light of the strong, gusty cross wind so we went all the way back up the hill to Timble Crossroads from where we made a dash for Darley Mill Tea Rooms and managed to squeeze immediately on to a table for five before the serious Sunday Lunch Brigade arrived.

Fortified with caffeine and cakes we had a delightful, incident free ride back with the wind behind us via Hampsthwaite and Knox Bridge. We struggled slightly to keep up with James who was sporting a new hip - but you couldn't tell, so he got no sympathy whatsoever. We all felt quite euphoric in the early summer sunshine. I have never actually tried recreational drugs but it is hard to imagine a better "high" than bowling along Nidderdale with the wind behind you in dazzling sunshine with little lambs gambolling in the fields. Even though Keith grumbled slightly about me "costing him ten quid" in the café I still maintain that a trip out with Wheel Easy beats a line of crack cocaine any day. There was 28 miles on the clock at a rather measly average speed of 9.5 miles per hour. Perhaps we should consider drugs. Helen

The Famous Three Medium Ride Report

We had a very pleasant added loop back and having left the main peloton, we (Sue W, and Peter and I) obviously affected by the same rush of wind to the brain or lungs, after the delicious ride down Penny Pot Lane, crossed Skipton Road towards Hampsthwaite. We went down Rowden Lane for a very short way onto West Lane, where with the wind behind us all the way back onto the road from Hampsthwaite and onwards, we found the ride back up to Grainbeck Lane and Knox Lane a piece of cake. Whilst the main group were sampling their own cake in the Valley Gardens Cafe, we sampled glorious sun and a bit of nigella bar, as Peter finished his banana on a bench at Knox Ford, and returned to Harrogate and home via the Bilton and Starbeck Cycle Paths. Our total mileage back to Hornbeam would have been 21.56 miles, which is about the same as we would have done if the road had been open to Timble and the café had not been closed. Caroline G

Medium Plus Ride Report

Today's medium plus ride was unfortunately an 'all male thing'. I feel the lady members of the club had already been warned that this was the first time that I had led a ride and I wasn't even sure how to get out of Harrogate But all went well until we turned to head up to Little Alms Cliffe, where we encountered a very strong head wind. We soon caught and adopted a refugee from the 'long slower ride'. When we approached Fewston village, we came across a 'road closed' sign where we were told in no uncertain terms by a little old lady that there was no way we could ignore this sign and ride on. So we took the diversion route which brought us out just in time to cross the dam. Then it was uphill to Timble and up and up again (!) towards Askwith crossroads. This was followed by our first 'speedy' downhill ride. We stopped for coffee at Cock Pit Farm near Weston. When we came out, the wind had blown Paul's brand new carbon fibre specialised bike over.... I don't know if the wind was so strong or the bike was so light! Our return route to Harrogate took us via Pool, Castley and then Weeton, across the A61 to Kirkby Overblow, along the southern bypass and past Rudding Park. For once the lights at the bottom of the hill were on green. We crossed the showground where the wind had returned with a vengeance.

This was a very enjoyable ride, with good company, leaving the leader pleased that all had turned

out a success! Many thanks, Terry.

Long Ride Report
I should have listened when my mother advised me not to play with the older boys as it would have saved me a lot of effort on today's long ride. Four of us battled into the wind for 35 miles to Cracoe. John setting the pace like a metronome beating out a relentless rhythm, and then at every hill the dynamic duo of Chris and Jeff leapt into action. This left me hanging off the back on an invisible piece of elastic which sadly kept snapping, Fortunately the others would wait for me and I could cycle past and briefly take the lead. Arriving at Cracoe, the 'cyclists special' and a never ending pot of tea proved to be very popular. We even met the hen (see picture) although I don't think she could have provided all 8 poached eggs!

The ride home was superb - stupendous views of the Dales, bright sunshine and, have I mentioned the wind, it was behind us. Fantastic. Jeff punctured on Duck Street but we arrived home around 4.00 having covered 65 miles. It was a great ride despite the strong wind. I am now searching for ways to make cycling easier by next week. I don't think I can lose weight, I can't get a leg transplant so don't be surprised if I turn up with holes drilled in the frame or with all unnecessary bits chopped off the bike. For the mileage tally 4 x 65. Phil

"Touring" Long Ride Report
Cyclists are a bit kinky and love a good thrashing - well the wind provided that today and everyone seemed to enjoy it! Nine of us followed Phil's route on the long ride but at a more moderate pace and taking the opportunity for an extra stop for morning coffee. The wind made it a tough ride and at Fewston there were white horses on the reservoir. Then it was over Timble and down to Askwith. After coffee in Ilkley it was onward to Bolton Abbey and over the quiet moorland roads to Embsay and beyond straight into the very strong headwind. There really was no hiding place from the onslaught and by the time we got to the lunch stop at Cracoe lots of faces were showing signs of windburn and lots of legs were aching. But what views and scenery the cold clear air gave us; the hills looked so close we felt we could reach out and touch them (which we almost did in the sidewind!). After lunch the wind was behind us so we enjoyed a speedier ride and it even eased the long climb up from Appletreewick to Greenhow. Then it was whoosh all the way home via Menwith and Hampsthwaite.

The average speed was rubbish but we had an excuse! Well done to Rosie on her first long ride with us, she easily kept on the pace and I hope enjoyed it. 64 glorious, wind battered, leg burning, miles in great company. Martin W

2010	Wheel	Easy	Miles	(approx)	Today	1802	YTD	23786
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