

Sunday, May 9, 2010

Wheel Easy Ride Report 211



Short

Ride

Report

After introductions and negotiations on distance, 6 of us set off towards Beckwithshaw via Leadhall Lane and The Squinting Cat. There were various route options available depending on the feelings and experience of the riders, and our electorate took several democratic decisions each of which favoured the longer (= more exciting = hillier) options. So after Beckwithshaw our coalition of riders first swung in the Lib Dem direction (i.e. left towards North Rigton), then towards the Conservatives (i.e. right along Briscoe Ridge to rejoin Otley Road, and then to keep the political balance, we turned left and right once more, bringing us to Braythorne Honey Farm and its tea room. The door was open, but we spent several minutes unsuccessfully trying to locate Sarah, the owner, before finding the large bell outside of the front door. Sarah then quickly appeared from the farmhouse. We spent the next hour supping generous quantities of coffee and updating Geraldine and Jo on the election - they'd missed out on the most exciting election in a generation whilst freezing on holiday in Italy! The timing of our coffee break was excellent as avoided a heavy shower. We then resumed our ride past Almscliffe Crag, with a photostop above the Wharfe Valley, and then on to North Rigton, Burn Bridge, and back into Harrogate. The round trip from Hornbeam Park was 17 miles, but we would each averaged about 20 miles door to door, making a total of 120 miles to be added to the Captain's Log. Well done to Will, Petra, Mary, Geraldine and Joe on a very enjoyable & hilly short ride with great views. Eric

Click on slide show for all today's photos

Medium

Ride

Report

Today was the first of the Wheel Easy Five Medium Challenge Rides which attracted a good crowd of fast and not so fast riders. William kindly led off the boy (and one girl) racers urging them on with a get set go at the first set of traffic lights. Paul agreed to be their backmarker but in his usual gallant way returned to help David with an

injured bike so he joined us slower mortals as our guest rider of the day! Meanwhile Malcolm was our official backmarker which he did in great style and spent much time rearranging Sue D's saddle. Sue assured us all that this was a great feat of engineering and sped away happy with the result. Enough of ride leaders and backmarkers and now to the ride. Our ride began with us glaring down a female driver who wasn't going to stop at the stop sign at York Place. Thankfully she did, we crossed safely and made it down to Knox in one piece, communed with the medium ride and leapfrogged with them all the way to Hampsthwaite. There we found Paul B and Crawford wondering what had taken us so long to get there! At the top of Clint Bank, Dennis, Tall John and Debbie decided to become a break away group and set off for Brimham needing to get back to Harrogate early. The rest of our group kept our spirits up despite the gloomy skies, the patches of drizzle and tried hard to appreciate the views for which this ride is famous. By the time we got to Brimham all was well, the sun came out, we enjoyed the views, we picked up a stray rider from the fast group and shepherded him back to his flock in Ripon.

The ride down from Brimham to Warsill is fabulous, we enjoyed this stretch and all felt pretty fired up to do the last few miles through the Deer Park and down to Ripon passing runners on the Ripon 10k race. Here we met our boy (and girl) racers who all looked jolly pleased with themselves and were tucking in to good food. Gia met an old friend she hadn't seen for years who now lives in Hexham!

It was warm and sunny enough for one group to sit outside (it was full inside anyway) Norman, Terry and Barry arrived and made it in to one of the pictures of the day. After Spa Gardens we wandered home basking in the warm sunshine, some of us lingered through Lingerfield and arrived back in Harrogate thoroughly satisfied with the day. Well done to our five ride challenge riders as Caroline said last year this ride took longer with far more stops, this year we kept a good pace and the hills were flatter! About 42 miles x 10. Gia

A shorter medium ride group of 10 returned to Harrogate directly from Brimham, completing about 30 miles.

Medium Plus Ride Report
 Once upon a time in Knaresborough Forest, 12 true and trusty knights set out into a northern nannery on their thoroughbred steeds on ye medium plus. O woe, two companions forsook us early when Dave abandoned his mount due to a failing front derailleur as we advanced upon Clint Bank. Paul, the plucky knight errant, with stiff upper lip volunteered to remain to defend all from demon dragons and seek the goodly Gia and her merry band. We continued on ever upwards into the gosling blast, but nothing could hold back this brave cohort, (except Glyn, on his lumbering mount(ain) bike, - gadzooks, he need seek a replacement new steed with haste! We sought brief refuge at the entrance to the lair of the Brimham Rock. But by struth, soon our novice squire, Andrew who at such breakneck pace and unlearned in our customs, discovered that following road signs is not the Wheel Easy way and he vanished towards Ripon by a direct route! We then approache the beloved sanctuary of Fountains Abbey when we were cast amongst a throng of serfs in vests, wandering in distress. We looked on helpless at so many who were near to collapse on the wayside. We mustered again and sped though the deer park to arrive at our holy grail - Spa Gardens tea rooms. Such jollity the tales we related over coffee and cherry scones. And such joy when bursting forth through the portal arrived the doughty damsel, Gia, with our lost adventurer Andrew in tow. Restored in numbers, we swiftly recommenced our path to Harrogate, beating through swarms of flying beasts, attracted to Paul's yellow regalia. But undaunted this brave this brave fellow took leave of us with Alison at Sandy Bank to take an extra course to ancient Boroughbridge. With the sun verily beating upon our backs we bade farewell to Robin Hood's wind, as we did also to Vali at Knaresborough. A final ascent to the bastion of Harrogate where we wished the fair Mark good travelling on his Land's End to John o' Groats traversal next week. Verily 39.5 miles for a sure and steadfast 10. William

Long Ride Report

There was no planned route & no nominated ride leader for the long ride today, but the suggestion of heading to the cafe at the Mouseman Visitor Centre for Kilburn seemed to be generally acceptable. Ten riders set off for Knaresborough & Boroughbridge keeping up a steady pace against the wind. Dennis left the group to head home at Thornton Bridge. After a brief stop at Dalton we then headed for the first real hill of the day to reach Kilburn for a pleasant cafe stop. This also gave Charles the opportunity to fulfil his instructions to purchase a wooden mouse to take when he goes on a home visit to the USA next week. As we left the cafe the sun had finally appeared for the first time today. The return ride took us back via Coxwold & Easingwold & the familiar route across Aldwark Bridge and home via Great Ouseburn, Arkendale & Knaresborough getting back to Harrogate just after 3pm. Approx 60 miles. Jill

2010	Wheel	Easy	Miles	(approx)	Today	1920	YTD	42292
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