

Sunday, September 26, 2010

Wheel Easy Ride Report 231



Short Ride Report
It was a dry, cloudy September morning, but set at November temperatures. This chilly start prompted calls from Linda for us to visit the café at the Braythorne Honey Farm, so my detailed ride planning was promptly binned in favour of hot coffee and scones. Wheel Easy riders get their priorities right in my book! Seven of us made it to the Honey Farm along the B road from Beckwithshaw. There seemed to be more traffic than usual and it then dawned on us that the closure of the A59 following the landslip was causing traffic to shift onto other roads. At the café they weren't open but within minutes of us arriving it was unlocked and coffee and tea were on the brew. It was a tad difficult to drag ourselves away from the warm interior to go out into that north wind but we eventually set off passing below Almscliffe Crag and on to North Rigton. Then it was home via Burn Bridge. All seven riders acquitted themselves well tackling all the hills with gusto, and most importantly the standard of socialability was well up to the mark. Enjoying cycling with good friends is the hallmark of every good ride, the weather doesn't count. Seven riders completed 15 miles .Martin W

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Medium Ride Report
A very select group of 5 set off from Hornbeam with me, Lynda riding her first ride as ride leader. Off along Leadhall Lane to Ashville College, past the Squinting Cat pub, through Beckwithshaw and onto the long climb to Little Almscliffe Crag where the very active Alison took over as ride leader and I became back marker. We had a short breather and photo stop at the car park before going down towards Swinsty reservoir and Fewston. At Fewston we spotted a lonely cyclist, Paul who had abandoned the Medium Plus ride to wisely join our select and fun group. Over the Fewston dam and up the steep climb to Timble where once again active Alison plus birthday boy Denis

(dare I say 79 years young tomorrow) became ride leaders and I again took up back marker. Finally arrived at Fewston Parochial Hall for a welcome coffee and cake break and here the fit and active Alison went downhill having a senior citizen moment giving any thieves about an easy picking - she left her key in her bike lock!!!. After just a short stop at the hall - Trevor was moaning (just joking Trevor) that he would miss the start of the Grand Prix we set off to Penny Pot Lane. Denise and Paul left us to go home via Killinghall leaving four of us to carry on towards Harrogate. At the pine woods we then separated again to go our own ways home. Ride approx 22 miles- I forgot to set my computer so mileage supplied by Trevor with his much posher navigation system!!. We had a very fun ride - thank you to my fellow cyclists for all their help to me as ride leader. Lynda McLean

Medium Plus Touring Pace Ride Report
 The debutant leader was keen to establish the rules of engagement right from the start. This ride was to be at a 'gentleman's pace' and ostentatious displays of athleticism would not be tolerated. He also betrayed his mountaineering background by promising to modify the advertised route in order to find as many hills as possible. Despite this threat 9 'old hands' plus new member Tim (what was he thinking of?) joined the leader, but only temporarily, because the party soon split up on Leadhall Lane. After this inauspicious start, a reformed party set off through Beckwithshaw, past Little Almscliffe and down into Fewston, for a surprise, but welcome pitstop. Suitably refreshed the party made light work of the climb up to Timble, and turned down into Low Snowdon. Paul's puncture was deemed so complex that it required 5 men to fix it; the rest of the party getting a head start on the steep pull back up to the moor road. The long swoop into Askwith was followed by another pitstop at the delightful Cockpit Farm and some truly excellent pea and mint soup. The group reformed and the leader, expressing his opinion that democracy is overrated, outlined his proposals for the rest of the trip. Escaping the traffic queues in Otley (what goes on in that town?) the party pushed on to Farnley, up past the school and then down the lovely lane to the bridge. Of course what goes down must go up, and all members enjoyed the long climb back up to the main road. The position and the views compensated for the hard work (well that's what they said). Back on the main road the party had only one more hill to endure (and the revolting smell - does anyone know what causes it?), before turning down to Brackenthwaite, and then back to Hornbeam. All in all quite a nice ride, with 11 members completing around 31 miles of a respectably hilly route, in good company and with fine catering. Chris

Long Ride Report
 Plans for the long ride changed when I arrived at Hornbeam. Charles suggested that there was an ideal opportunity to cycle along the A59 between Blubberhouses and Bolton Abbey due to a road closure, and an ideal opportunity it was. We headed off via Beckwithshaw, Fewston and Timble and then down to Blubberhouses. To avoid barriers we had to take a detour to Thrushcross and pick up the A59 about 1 mile up hill from Blubberhouses. We went down to look at the landslide (see photo) and then enjoyed a really fast 3 mile descent, on a deserted road, to Bolton Abbey. After a cafe stop the ride continued to Appletrewick and Stump Cross followed by another great descent down Middle Tongue to Bewerley, Glasshouses, Smelthouses and Ripley. It was a great ride with 6 riders covering 55 miles and about 1000m of swooping fast downhill roads. Thanks to all for another brilliant days cycling. Phil

2010 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 886 YTD 115150

