

Sunday, October 31, 2010

Wheel Easy Ride Report 236



Short Ride Report
Four intrepid 'Easy' ladies set off from Hornbeam. We arrived at the Odeon cinema....and then there were only 3!
Knox Bridge, brought relief to the team as numbers were restored to 4. Trouble free to Hampsthwaite, where we paused for a photograph on the village green. The green has a beautifully presented information board pointing out places of interest in the village. A steady climb up Rowden Lane took us to Hildebrand Barracks. Oakdale Bridge, closed to car users gave us traffic free roads, which we made use of to wiggle up the hill towards the Pine Woods. A clear round for all riders, with no pauses for breath. Well done to all. Sarah

Click on slide show for all today's photos

Medium Ride Report
A misty, moisty morning in the season of mellow fruitfulness saw about 20 hardy souls choose the medium ride to Ripon. In our group were several riders who normally would do at least the medium plus, or even the long ride at a fast pace, plus one new member (welcome!) on a very racy-looking road bike. The group was too big to go as one, so Julie kindly offered to lead about half of our group, and Caroline did the honours as back marker of the sub-group, and Peter of the other (main?) group. We set off to Knox and Spruisty bridge, and by the time we reached it, one group had gone one way and the other another, (so to speak). We kept intermingling with the short ride, and Julie's half of the medium ride had disappeared off into the mist towards Hampsthwaite, and Geraldine's and my 'leading' was being done from about three-quarters of the way down our peloton. Fortunately, everyone seemed to know the way. We tackled Clint Bank without problems, and the steep climb to come was only just visible as we coasted down into Shaw Mills. We managed to get both groups together at the 'Cut Throat Lane' sign at the top of the hill, where Caroline kindly took a picture, as we had, as usual, forgotten to bring a camera. Onwards to Bishop Thornton and then on to Watergate and Fountains Abbey, and a lovely descent through the Deer

Park, (complete with deer) and on to Ripon and the Sun Pavilion café for excellent-value refreshments. Dennis and Crawford left us at this point, and we continued after refreshments as a single group through the centre of Ripon, across the ring-road and on to Littlethorpe, past 'Paul's Ditch', where Caroline took a photograph of the spot (now with verges and hedges well trimmed) where Paul B. disappeared into the depths on a previous occasion. The drizzle started as we cruised along through Bishop Monkton, Burton Leonard to Farnham, and at some stage Terry acquired the Blackberry (why? how?) of the new fellow, who had disappeared off into the distance at a rather faster pace than the rest of the group's. We still hadn't found the fast, new fellow by the time we reached Farnham and Knaresborough, despite the fact that Terry was in front of them (how does that work?) but we figured that he was probably OK, and would eventually notice that he no longer had his Blackberry. If not, Terry's got it, and he hasn't yet put it on e-Bay... Around 16 of us arrived at the top of the hill out of Knaresborough, and we made our own ways home from there, having done around 33 miles. Joe

Medium Ride Touring Pace Report
 Fifteen of us left Hornbeam and by the time we reached Knaresborough it was clear that a quicker group was going to need to make more rapid progress than the "tourers". So we split with 9 speedies setting off ahead of the tourers. Not for long, however, as at Goldsborough the speedies took a while exploring a cul-de-sac, before catching up and passing the rest of us on the road to Flaxby. Then we followed the lanes through Coneythorpe, and on to Boroughbridge, Skelton and Ripon Spa Gardens Cafe.
 With bacon butties on board a reconstituted group climbed up through Studley Park where we had a great view of a stag charging across the road in front of us, and also seeing some old friends from Ripon CC. The climbing continued and the fluctuation in group size continued, but the hardcore tourers made it up to Brimham Rocks, and, despite carrying his overnight things Peter stayed with us. (He really should get a lightweight teddy bear for his next trip). Then we dropped down to Summerbridge and again recharged our batteries at Darley Mill. The weather remained gloomy and damp so a return along the valley via Birstwith and Hampsthwaite made for a good end to the ride. Martin W
 Mileage 5 x 49, 6 x 38, 5 x 42 = 683

I met up somewhere between Flaxby, Arkendale and Coneythorpe. During a chat with Debs and one other I was told that they had taken a wrong turn in Goldsborough (interesting!), they had got to Arkendale and now had no idea where they were going. So I directed them the right way and then asked who their ride leader was. So by majority vote I was chosen and off we all went to Marton, Aldborough and Boroughbridge on our way to Ripon Spa Gardens cafe. This is where then we meet up with Martin's group. Out of 8 of us 4 chose to go back by a different route due to time. So a few of us teamed up with Martin and off we all went. It was not long before the 4 faster ones wanted to stretch our legs so we left Martin to it. (Darren is too kind - he should say he left us for dead. Martin). So we were off to Ripon, Fountains, Brimham Rocks, Hartwith, and Kettelsing. There was not much chat but lots of heavy breathing up the hills - just what the doctor ordered. We made it to Menwith, next Pennypot Lane and back to Harrogate and home. About 50/52 miles covered and I still had another 12 to do to get home. Good company and chats, a good ride with some challenges. Good one fellows! Darren your appointed ride leader.

Long Ride Report
 7 riders elected to join the long ride despite the lack of leader or pre-ordained route. Being first to open my big mouth seemed to be all that was required to become ride leader - so, with lights flashing dimly in the fog, we set off to Bolton Abbey via Fewston, Timble, Askwith and Beamsley Beacon. The weather brightened up as soon as we entered Wharfedale and for a short while around Bolton Abbey it was almost pleasant. Puncture gremlins struck Dennis at the bottom climb out of Appletreewick and then again on Penny Pot Lane. A fine ride to welcome GMT, only 52 miles so there is a good chance that the medium plus ride was the real long ride today. Phil

2010 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 1907 YTD 130211

