

Wednesday, December 1, 2010

Wednesday Rides



DUE TO SNOW, LED RIDES WERE CANCELLED. MEMBERS MET TO EITHER CYCLE OR WALK TOGETHER

Snow Biking Round 2 report.
Round 2 of this winter's snow biking didn't get off to a promising start. I arrived at Hornbeam at 9.30, and was heavily outnumbered by walkers: about 12 to 1! So feeling deserted by cycling colleagues (well it is a cycling club after all!), I set off alone. On the bridle path from Hornbeam Park into Crimple Valley, I spotted fresh tyre tracks not yet covered by falling snow, so another cyclist must be just ahead, Kimosabi. Sure enough, I soon caught up with Paul Tindle out snow biking for the third time this week! A phone call to the EG's established there were 4 more riders at Knaresborough, so we all met outside The Union pub in Calcutt, by which time the snow was falling very heavily.
As Norman was on a road bike, and the road conditions were deteriorating by the minute, he was forced to abandoned the ride. Paul also returned home as he had only been allowed out to play in the snow for an hour and a half. So the remaining four of us set off set off up Thistle Hill in heavy snow. We then turned off-road just before the by-pass, and Dave Preston immediately inspected the ground conditions extremely closely - head first! Over the next hour or so, we didn't meet many people, but those we did seemed unanimous on one point "You must all be mad!". Our grinning from ear to ear in such condition only seemed to confirm their opinions. We had passed through Goldsborough and were near Hay -a-Park when Dave P suddenly let out some appalling language - quite unbecoming for a former Wheel Easy chairman, and certainly most unsuitable for my ears - he'd spotted his treasured toolkit was no longer attached to his bike. We decided it must have come adrift when he and his bike were horizontal 5 miles earlier. So we turned round and retraced our tracks back to Thistle Hill, and found DP's toolkit well covered in the snow. We carried on to Rascals Cafe on Knaresborough Waterside for assorted sustenance. Dave W then made his way home, whilst Dave P, Peter B and myself made our way to Harrogate via Conyngham Hall, the footbridge over the River Nidd, and the Beryl Burton Cycleway. We arrived home around 2.30pm, have covered a fabulous 22 miles. It had been a truly exhilarating ride. For

the Captain's Log, a total of 100 miles was covered by the 6 riders. The weather forecast suggests that these conditions will continue for quite some time, so we're looking forward to Snow Biking Round 3 on Sunday, and hope more Wheel Easy members with mountain bikes will join us to enjoy this wonderful experience. Eric

Click on slide show for all today's photos

Winter Walk.
Twelve of us met at Hornbeam ready for a walk and a coffee, with a promise of a decent hill for Caroline to make use of her green tray. Several took up the challenge of a slide down the hill on said green tray. As the snow came down in chunks we trudged on through the snow along the bank of the Crimple, spotted a heron and went under the old viaduct towards Crimple Lane. Walking up through the showground we spied Paul in the distance who had braved the roads and was out on his mountain bike. After chatting with him we went in to Fodders for hot drinks. An excellent morning walk, looks like there will be a few more Wheel Easy Walks this winter! Thanks Martin for this morning's walk idea. Gia

At Hornbeam no-one was cycling - until Eric turned up on his mountain bike. He then set off to find someone else to cycle with as we were going playing in the snow! Caroline, inspired by Alison produced her circular toboggan and ensured that all dignity was promptly lost on the hills near the Crimple Golf Course. Max gave a performance score and the reality TV performers set about trying to wipe out the cameraman who, entranced by his technology, lost his wits and nearly got run over (I recovered and had a go myself!). With increasing snowfall we headed for Fodders in the blizzard where the empty spaces in the cafe told the tale of all the lost customers. Then we all headed homeward to our igloos and rubbed noses. Martin

2010	Wheel	Easy	Miles	(approx)	Today	100	YTD	140086
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