

Sunday, January 1, 2012

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 296



Happy New Year to everyone at Wheel Easy! From Gia and Malcolm

About twenty brave souls turned up today, New Year's Day to start the year off with a ride. It was one of those days, shall we? shan't we ride as the rain started with some persistence. Peter and a few others were looking for a few more miles than my offering of a medium ride to Wetherby, so they set off, Darren waiting patiently for Mark to turn up! Gia

### Medium Ride Report

Thirteen of us rode to Wetherby, tracked by some very low flying red kites, few cars, one puncture and a whizzing 80 year old determined to outpace the leader up the hill to Sicklinghall! By this time the rain had stopped and we even saw the sun very briefly. This was turning out to be a good ride. In Wetherby the usual suspects declined a coffee stop and returned to Harrogate, the remainder searched Wetherby for a coffee stop but when the only option turned out to be The Red Lion or sloe gin, cellovodka (sp?) mince pies, Xmas cake and cheese at Caroline and Max you can guess where we chose. We arrived back in Harrogate as the rain came down again but were soon luxuriating in the warmth and comfort of Hotel Graham. All rides should end with a shot of sloe gin! Great ride, great company and wonderful hospitality. Gia. 25 miles.

## Long Ride Report

Seven people opted for the slightly longer ride to Ripon hoping to find somewhere open for coffee. We set off in the rain & for a brief few moments it seemed to ease, but then it rained some more as we approached Ripon. Off to The Warehouse for coffee. Afterwards the group split, Mark & Darren for the hills of Sawley in spite of the rain, Peter for the fastest most direct route back to Harrogate & the remaining four retraced the outward route home. It rained steadily, & then it rained some more...& more....On getting back to Harrogate I met up with Mark & Darren who had also cycled through a hailstorm on the way back. However we all agreed that in a strange way we had enjoyed the ride - a very wet start of approx. 30-35 miles to the new year. Jill

Despite the inclement conditions seven riders decided to brave the ride to Ripon. This number dropped to six in Knaresborough but returned to seven when Dave W joined the group on Abbey Road. The group continued on the usual route out to Farnham, Copgrove and Bishop Monkton. The rain eased off and at one point actually stopped. Given the clear conditions the group decided to continue the ride to Ripon via Littlethorpe. As soon as we turned off the main road to Littlethorpe the rain started again. On arriving at Ripon there was some discussion as to which café would be open for business. Although the original intention was to go Nero's we ended up at the Warehouse. Although the refreshment stop was most welcome there were some grumbling from the Nero lobby. Given the weather conditions i.e. lots of cold rain, the rides then split into three return routes as follows. Darren and Mark: Studley Royal, Fountains, Ripley, Harrogate Jill, John, Glyn and Dave: Return via Bishop Monkton, Farnham and Knaresborough, Harrogate. A61 to Bishop Monkton crossroads, Markington, Bishop Thornton, Ripley, Harrogate. Mileage approximately 30 based on the different routes, therefore total mileage  $30 \times 7 = 210$  miles. Peter J: