

Sunday, January 15, 2012
Wheel Easy Ride Report 298



Short Ride Report

This was a welcome to the new year - first ride out for me! An icy cold morning that saw Geraldine, Joe and Paul, 2nd time with Wheel Easy join me for the short ride. We were the last to leave Hornbeam, definitely not in a hurry to get anywhere we headed up Leadhall Lane along the cycle paths which were new to Paul towards Beckwith Knowle where we reminisced about the old CEGB that was from our younger years! Cutting through into Greengate pointing out "The Hub" for any cyclists needing refreshments but only open Monday to Friday and out the other end onto Cardale Park. Into Burn Bridge for a quick coffee stop (thanks Geraldine), we then headed off on to the Leeds bound A61 but turning off on to the track towards Kirkby Overblow. After a kind man (a customer in the little shop next door to "The Shoulder of Mutton") had taken a photo of the 4 of us, Geraldine, Joe and Paul also went in - Geraldine warmed up her gloves on the shop radiator (!) whilst Paul made a small purchase ("brownie points" for later he said!) we then made our way back to Crimple where I said goodbye and my group of 3 headed off back towards Hornbeam and Harrogate. Thanks to making up the

quartet - a very pleasant if not slightly freezing hands and feet type of morning's ride. Sue T

Click on slide show for all the short and medium ride photos

Medium Ride Report

It was definitely the first "brass monkey" weather of the year. For those who are concerned that "freezing the balls" off said object is a rude expression I must point out that it is in fact an old nautical term. The brass monkey was a stand on which cannon balls were placed onboard ships. When it was very cold the "monkey" shrank and the "balls fell off! - but you all know that. So there were 11 for the medium ride - Chris M led a group of three who were going to make hilly deviations from the advertised route. The rest of us went along the usual route to Beckwithshaw, where we picked up Sir Paul of Killinghall, and on to Little Alms Cliffe where there were definite indications of ice. The Sun Inn was passed, as was the A59 X roads, and Menwith Hill conquered. Now it was getting quite cold and frequent comments were being made about extremities dropping off. Two oncoming cyclists warned us about a section of what appeared to be frozen slush. The frosted views from Swarcliffe Top ridge must surely be the next David Hockney project. As we dropped down into Hampsthwaite it became even colder so the fire at Sophie's was visited by all but one who declined the offer with a " What! and miss Sunday lunch". What powers you hold Mrs El B! As we left Sophie's it felt warmer, for all of half a second, so with a brave push uphill Killinghall, where Paul bade us "adieu", and Knox were soon reached. Finally at Crab Lane the ride leader was told that his services were now dispensed with as the ladies wanted to try a new route into Harrogate.

Finally. if anyone knows my bike lock code please let tell me otherwise I only have another one thousand two hundred and ninety six combinations yet to try. 9 x 22 very cold but satisfying miles . Max

A select splinter group of 3 (Steve, Paul and the apparent leader) set off with a view to doing a shorter but somewhat hillier variation of the official route. In doing so we ticked off the following landmarks: The Smiths Arms, The Sun Inn, The Black Bull, The Queens Head and the Joiners Arms. After defrosting in Sophies we headed for home , the apparent leader in the general direction of Manchester Airport. Chris M

Medium Plus Touring Pace Ride Report
Numbers

Twenty three riders opted for the medium plus ride. They were split into three groups. Darren leading the fast group, Dave P and myself leading a group each.

The route

Hornbeam, Showground, Follifoot, Spofforth, Little Ribston, Cowthorpe, Tockwith, Marston Moor Memorial, Long Marston, Hutton Wandesley, Angram, Askham Richard. Bilbrough, Catterton, Healaugh, Wighill, Wetherby, Sicklinghall, Kirkby Overblow, Harrogate. A flat 43 miles.

Weather

Very cold, with a thin layer of white covering everything. A truly beautiful morning. Perfect for being wrapped up and being outside.

Complaints

Too cold and too long before a coffee stop.

Hero of the day

Terry B who repaired Rachael's two punctures.

Educational input from Keith

St James's Church, Bilbrough is well worth a visit. It houses the tomb of Sir Thomas, Lord, Fairfax (1612 - 1671) and Lady Anne Fairfax. Sir Thomas was a leading Parliamentary General of the First and Second Civil Wars. He had a principal role in the decisive Parliamentarian victory at Marston Moor in 1644, commanded the armies at Naseby in 1645 and took the Royal Surrender at Oxford in 1646. He was unhappy at the execution of Charles I and played a part in the subsequent restoration of the monarchy. He lived at Nun Appleton Hall near Bolton Percy.

Surprise of the day

The number of riders who turned out and members wanting to renew and I didn't bring my membership list.

On returning home I thought what a great ride with great company and what would we do without Wheel Easy? Paul

Despite the frost the roads were clear and dry as on to Spofforth and Little Ribston crossing the A1 were Bob S left us to return home. A photo stop was taken at Marston Moor Memorial. Go and stand next to that big phallic symbol were the instructions. Call that big said a rider who will remain anonymous, the conversation then degenerated as comments were made on

the effects of the present cold weather. A further short stop was taken at Askham Richard where it was decided to take caffeine at Thorp Arch Bistro rather than continue a further two miles to Wetherby. After Healaugh and Wighill the magnificent seven comprising Bill W, Dave P, Dave S, David, Michiel, Robert and Tim were soon in the warmth of the café thawing out fingers and toes. Here Dave P succumbed to a ginger and syrup sponge with hot custard, without any feelings of guilt. It was then on the cycle path to Wetherby and despite DP leading, Morrisons Cafe was bypassed to head for Sicklinghall, Kirkby Overblow and home for just after 2.00pm. An excellent winter's ride of around 43 miles. Dave P

[Click on slide show for all the long ride photos](#)

Long Ride Report

The demands of leadership are complex if one tries to be sensitive to the vagaries of the group. Are they collaborators or revolutionaries? What are their cycling, sustenance and adventure needs? Is pragmatism and consensus the policy or is the philosophy of Pol Pot the mode. I pondered this as we went to Silsden via Otley and Ilkley. Good refuel at cafe in Silsden then up to Draughton and Bolton Abbey. Cavendish cafe is having a refurb so we went to Buffers at Storriths for slow coffee and grumpy owner. Eric hadn't been so he put his train anorak on. Back along A 59 to Dangerous Corner then Penny Pot. The scenery was wonderful , enhanced by the various light conditions we experienced. Thanks to Glynn who took the photos. Still pondering -- think I'll give Dave and Ed a call. 58 miles x 5. Peter B





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