

Sunday, February 5, 2012
Wheel Easy Ride Report 301



'Biking in the snow' Report

If you want some great 'snow biking' on a Sunday morning, you ideally need a really good blizzard on Saturday afternoon. So on Saturday, whilst I was changing the tyres on my mountain bike from the thinner summer road tyres to the fatter winter knobbies, 6" of snow duly arrived. How good is that? It was as if all my Christmases and birthdays had come together! At Hornbeam Park on Sunday morning, the walkers outnumbered the cyclists by 4 to 3. Phil S, Peter L and myself set off along the track taking us to Crimple Valley, where we overtook the walkers, and then on into Hookstone Woods. We continued through the Yorkshire Showground, across Wetherby Road, and through the old brickworks site to the bottom of Hookstone Chase. Peter sadly had to leave us there, so Phil and I carried on along Forest Moor Road to Calcutt, and up Thistle Hill. Just after we entered Birkham Wood, the scenery was magical, so we stopped for a photocall, and about 15 riders from Cappuccino Cycling Club (including some Wheel Easy members) passed us - all enjoying the wonderful conditions and scenery, and asking where the rest of the club were. How embarrassing! Come on Wheel Easy members - you

should be out there on your bikes enjoying the wonderful conditions too! We crossed the River Nidd on the footbridge by the Goldsborough Mill (see photos) and then across the fields to Goldsborough village and on to Hay-a-Park (another photocall), before returning to Knaresborough. Judging by the cycles tracks in the snow, the Cappuccino group had taken the same route minutes earlier. We diverted along Waterside to the Riverside Cafe for coffee, hot chocolate and toasted teacakes. Just as we left at 12.15, the Wheel Easy walkers, Martin, Yvonne and Sally arrived for their refreshment stop. Our route back to Harrogate was along the Beryl Burton Way. Somehow Phil had collected a puncture - difficult in snow - so our journey was delayed a little as we had to pump up his tyre 3 times. We arrived home by 1.30pm, having completed a very enjoyable 20 miles. Eric

Click on slide show for all the weekend photos

'Walking in the snow' Report

For this Sunday we should have changed the name to "Snow Easy" or judging by the fact that there were only five walkers and three mountain bikers perhaps we should call it "Sleep Easy"! So while most of the membership snuggled under duvets we made it out for a 9.30 walk from Hornbeam, and Eric led a stalwart trio on their bikes in the snow. We have done this walk before on a snowy Sunday but it was as beautiful as ever in the sunshine and powdery snow underfoot. We headed out through the bottom of Hornbeam Park and followed bridleways and paths under the old Crimble viaduct to the Travellers Rest. John left us here so four of us continued to Follifoot via the Ridding Golf Course. The flags on the greens looked forlorn among the sparkling whiteness. At Follifoot Church Paul left us, and then there were three. Through Plumpton and into Birkham Wood the snow and the sunshine was marvellous, and we followed the Nidd along to Waterside at Knaresborough for a cafe stop, where we met up again with Eric and Phil taking a break from their bikes. Then it was onto the bus and back to Harrogate. About a 7 mile walk. Martin W



