

Sunday, February 26, 2012
Wheel Easy Ride Report 304



Wheel Easy on Tour

In an attempt to re instated the now defunct Chapel Hill Chapter of Wheel Easy (due to pregnancies, births, child minding and jobs) two escapees from the WE Harrogate Poddlers set off on their Sunday morning ride in clear sun, a nip in the air and 57 degrees F. Max resembled a lost space Father Christmas and I oversized mountain biker as we headed for the beautifully landscaped recycling area and then got lost. Roads that were roads were not longer and a multitude of new roads had been built...all called Martin Luther King Junior or Eubanks. We veered through acres of tall skinny treed woodlands, flooded up to their trunks in muddy and full of rebit croaking frogs and enough dead wood to make anyone with a wood burring stove have free fuel for life. The terrain was uppy downish but the downs were certainly more down and the ups were far easier than they should have been. We cycled passed trailer parks of skinny portacabin and lots of fridges, little homes on the prairie but in acres of pale worn out woodland surrounded by fifty or sixty disused cars, large Dallas or Hollywood dwellings with six entrances and excessively large wrought iron gates and drives. Miraculously

we were reunited with the I 40 and amazingly recognised an intersection and the route back. There were three or four cyclists who seemed happy to see others, the North Carolinian drivers are wonderfully considerate towards cyclists so we were surprised there were not more. A interesting ride in beautiful British summer conditions, more pleasant than the ride the previous day when the temperature was 77 degrees F. See you all soon. Caroline G

Short Ride Report

This ride is also known as "The Sloe Ride" owing to nature's bounty to be gathered later...

Seven trusty W E members joined me on a quickish ride via the Show ground to the dizzy heights of Rudding Lane - why do those lights always show red? We then sped through Follifoot, Spofforth and Little Ribston to the Brethren Meeting House where "guest rider" Dave Preston whipped out his camera and took several photos of our feet!! Apparently, this state of the art camera doesn't need to focus on faces! A brief discussion confirmed the need for coffee and hot chocolate so we wove our way through crowds of pedestrians, dogs and small children on trikes to two excellent tables beside the Nidd - bliss! After carefully, paying our respective dues, we discovered a substantial overpay. However, a handy charity box saved a lot of re-sorting. We returned via the lovely Bogs Lane having done an enjoyable 15.5 miles.

Quotes of the ride - "If you can't ride and chat, you're going too fast" DP

"Choice is heaven; choosing is hell" with ref to teacake or scone

Thank you all for being excellent wheelers and hope Dave's decorating goes well - good that you fitted a shortie into the heavy schedule! Good wishes were sent by us to Pete - lovely to see Lynda. Sue D

Medium Ride Report

Eighteen riders opted for the medium ride to Ripon and Boroughbridge. The group was divided into three groups of six with Joe helping Paul and Sue to lead a group each. Pleasant conditions and little wind which was a blessing. Uneventful ride although Sue's group did stop to admire the llamas and reindeers or were they alpacas and caribou? Anyway they were an unexpected sight to see in North Yorkshire. It was good to see Phil Snowdon join us half way through the ride. 33miles average speed 11mph. Sue C / Paul T

Medium Plus Ride Report

A reasonably hilly ride taking in Clint Bank, Brimham Rocks and Fountains Abbey resulted in a manageable number of fourteen riders opting for the Medium Plus Touring Pace ride. The ride was subsequently split at Otley Road when Terry volunteered to look after a small group who wanted to take

things steadier today and so having met William on route, and with no fast ride today, we now had the look of a quicker group. After a short stop in Hampsthwaite, and with the weather becoming increasingly overcast, the climbing commenced and to everyone's credit the group remained together all the way up to Brimham Rocks. However this was not the case as we passed through Sawley when our numbers had somehow reduced to six - time for some mental arithmetic to work out who was on the road behind us and not part of Terry's aforementioned group. As a café stop at Ripon Spa Gardens had been pre-agreed we knew that we would re-group here, as we duly did on discovering that Debs' group had taken a short cut and were already sat at their table, along with every other cycling club in Yorkshire who was out today. So suitably refreshed and with the group now intact we made our way from Ripon back to Harrogate via Bishop Monkton. So a good ride today in excellent company with everyone doing their bit at the front at a slightly quicker touring pace than usual. I also spotted Terry and his group in Knaresborough as I drove home so they weren't too far behind us. 15 x 38 miles Martyn B

A big thank you to Terry from Sarah Cross for looking after the group.

Long Ride Report

We started off in glorious sunshine as eight. James did not recognise Fewston so we did an educational diversion along it from Wydra, thereby shaking off the Evans sportives . Through the mysteries of Delves, and the dead sheep, (hopefully not casualty virus no 48) and Love Lane to refind the Evans. By Pateley we left them as we knew our cafe stop, and they did not know theirs. We then also lost the sun and substituted Eric. Oddly no one took the way home from our first visit to Wath and on upto windy Angram, though Jill had left us. At Lofthouse Roger took the valley route home. James hared off up the hill and was not seen again . Hope he did look back at us and the superb Nidderdale views. Over to the source of the burning heather and the bridle path short cut and onto Sawley and then a fast downhill seemingly all the way to Ripley. 60m and home for 4. Richard

