

Sunday, March 11, 2012
Wheel Easy Ride Report 306



Starter Group Ride Report

Thirteen riders turned up this morning for a ten mile ride in glorious sunshine. We followed the same route as last week with an additional four miles. The route took us along the Stray, down Claro Road and onto the cycle path towards Knaresborough. Next week we will try a few hills! Paul

Short Ride Report

Only two Caroline's for short ride, so we joined the medium ride.. And what a stunning day for a cycle. Caroline

Medium Ride Report

The contrast with the weather on the previous Sunday couldn't have been greater: glorious blue sky and sunshine, and only a gentle westerly wind. Those who had faced the elements the previous Sunday told a grim tale, and Dennis said he had never been so cold in his life.

Today 20 people opted for the medium ride, which the web site promised would provide us with 25 hilly miles to the west of Harrogate up to the Golf

Balls and then over to the Nidd Valley at Darley. It was good to welcome a young man, Paulius, from Lithuania to his first WE! ride. Paul Blackham and Caroline Graham were assigned to take a slightly faster group of 10, and I took the notionally slower group, but our different routes out of Harrogate meant that the slower group reached the car park by Stainburn Woods first. The wind was definitely against us as we pulled up Norwood Lane, but the blue sky and view of the windmills on Penny Pot lane were spectacular. From that point on, military discipline fell apart, and it was not really possible to distinguish two separate groups. We continued past Little Alms Cliff (also known as Almas Cliff, as it says on the OS map), along Broad Dubb Road and then right along Watsons Lane, where, most unusually, we encountered 2 cars coming towards us. We turned right at the end, going north along the B6451, past the Sun Inn which was surprisingly devoid of motorcyclists. One poor cyclist (not a WE! Member) was retracing his route along that section of road looking for his computer, which had fallen off. I don't think he found it. We crossed the busy Skipton Road and continued north past Menwith Hill Camp towards Darley, but instead of continuing to Darley, the group just sort of spontaneously turned right towards Birstwith along the top of the ridge, rather than face the hill down to Darley and then significant hills up again. We coasted along the ridge with a following wind, and then swooped down through Clapham Green and into Hampsthwaite. The smell of bacon frying from Sophie's Café was too tempting to resist for many, and so several of us called in for refreshment, some even sitting outside, such was the glorious weather. Back up the hill and across the A61 to Knox, then people made their own ways back to Hornbeam or home. About 20 gloriously sunny, not-quite-so-hilly-as-planned miles. Joe

Medium Plus Touring Pace Ride Report

Forget the warm, sunny weather. Forget tea in the cafe garden at Easingwold. Forget the daffs, crocuses and early bees. Forget the 45 miles, the 'new' section of Route 65 which none of us had ever cycled before. Forget the timing which brought us home shortly after the rugby started. For me, the real thing worth remembering is that I finally used my chain splitter which I must have carried around for thousands of miles up to now, unused. Quite a large group (22), we took the rare opportunity of cycling along Knaresborough Waterside from Low Bridge before it would be invaded by pedestrians. Shortly after exiting Knaresborough one cyclist had a fall partly due to a Morrison's tanker overtaking, albeit after some patient following. This emphasised the need for all of us to do more to let traffic get out of our way by leaving gaps in the groups. We also saw plenty of examples of crazy overtaking, shouting and general stupidity by other car drivers. So I think letting cars get past ASAP is in all our interests. Sue C's Savlon spray and my

ibruprofen soon had everything under control in the graze department and no turn back was necessary. With the scent of coffee in the air Terry raced ahead with others to the pre-warned Cafe 21. Lunch in the garden was delightful, tempting thoughts of extending the ride. As a compromise we lengthened the ride, by all heading back to Alne and Youlton and taking the Route 65 track/alley/path/lane to Linton on Ouse. Luckily the mud was sufficiently dry to give a yielding but not slippery ride. I would NOT try this path after rain or an expensive road bike. Martin and others opted for yet more mileage via Beningborough, while I lead the others home across Aldwark bridge and via Marton Cum Grafton. Shortly after the breather at the top of the hill, Howard's chain snapped. Just the incentive I needed to dig in the toolkit and apply the relevant toolset. Everyone else seemed content with a further rest, but helped out with advice and dry wet wipes (worked surprisnlgly well in tandem with wet grass to clean my hands). Without further incident we were back in Harrogate having only missed 15 minutes of the rugby. Lovely ride of course but round about the 47 mile mark - which will seem as nothing come June Peter L

Medium Super Plus Ride Report (aka splinter group with excessive enthusiasm!). We left the rest of the Medium Plus Group at Linton, and went for tea at the Beningborough Farm shop. The fantastic sunny day and the near perfect cycling conditions encouraged a group decision to stay out and enjoy the sunshine. So the famous five - Terry, Bill, Justin, Yvonne and Martin added on the York by the river, and Askham Bryan loop to the already quite extensive ride that the medium plus had already done to Easingwold and Linton. We made it to Rufforth and smelled Fred Dibnah's traction engine, but it was on a smaller scale! See photos. Then we reached Tockwith and needed lots of sugar to get the legs moving. By Spofforth my legs went numb anyway, and I don't think I was entirely alone. The prize goes to Terry for doing the whole day in the big ring including climbing back up the murderous hill through the showground. But muscle aches aside we couldn't have had a better ride! Great company. Thanks everyone. Martin W.

Medium Plus Ride Report

To follow

Long Ride Report

It was a perfect day for cycling as everyone gathered at Hornbeam & 11 people joined the long ride to Hebden. Heading out through Burn Bridge & past Almscliffe Crag the group soon split with 3 people forming a faster group. It was steady progress to Otley, Ilkley & on to Bolton Abbey with Eric leaving the group to head home at Askwith. There were stunning views as we

headed along Wharfedale towards Appletreewick & finally Hebden for a very welcome café stop. After lunch Peter and Phil decided to make the most of the wonderful weather & put in some extra miles to Kettlewell. The rest of the group returned to Appletreewick & then the climb up to Stump Cross. It was then a long downhill via Duck Street, Menwith Hill to Hampsthwaite & home. A glorious day of cycling in sunshine with stunning scenery & good company - 60 miles. Jill



