

Sunday, April 15, 2012

Wheel Easy Ride Report 311



Short Ride Report

A swarm of cyclists gathered at Hornbeam Park with a determination to make a bee-line for the Braythorne Honey Café. So fifteen cyclists split into two sub-swarms each with a their own Queen (just a figure of speech Steve!) and headed over the hills on a cold breezy day. The climb up Brackenthwaite Lane was soon dealt with, and we arrived as the only customers at the Honey Café. We waxed lyrical about the flapjacks and nectar like coffee before heading to Almscliffe Crag where the climbers on the rocks looked like a swarm of (yes, you're getting the drift of this aren't you). Then some really challenging hills had us buzzing before the quick flight back down Brackenthwaite Lane and home to our respective hives. Well done to four new worker bees (sorry cyclists) who coped really well, and thanks to Steve for volunteering to lead one of the groups. 15 riders covered 15.5 miles. Martin W

Medium Ride Report

This is my first ever report as ride leader, having finally decided to offer to progress from follower to leader. I wish I could say it was a huge success, but it wasn't. Fortunately, one of my failings was to bring a camera, so at least there is no pictures!! 10 of us set off on a route that I was only really 50:50 on, towards Kirby Overblow. I had a mental mind map of the Google image of the route, and some printed instructions, but one B road looks much the same as any other when you are actually cycling along them. Somewhere around Sickinghall we had the pleasure of seeing the Reliability riders as they were going up hill and us down. Even so, they were looking a lot fitter than I felt. It was about the same time that my printed instructions of the route fell out of my pocket, and we started flying blind. As we approached Wetherby we took stock of the peoples preferences, of which there were three:

- get back as soon as possible
- stop for a coffee.
- add an extra loop to Boston Spa

I think this is where my leadership skills were supposed to kick in, and I should have forced a consensus, and we would all ride together to ultimate victory. However, I took the easier option and opted to go with 2 others for the extra loop, and left the other 7 to fend for themselves. I really really really hope they made it home safe and well. Neil

Medium Plus Touring Pace Ride Report

Eight riders (7 members with a guest husband from Clifton CC) set out on Medium Plus ride to Boroughbridge. With a short stop at Low Bridge for a spot of kingfisher twitching, we made a steady pace to the Old Foundry Kitchen Café. Much talk of travels to warmer climes in Provence and Majorca before setting off in two groups for the ride home where we met intermittent north easterlies and a hail shower. 44 reliable miles. William

Reliability Ride Report

'Thanks to John E and Caroline for giving up their Sunday rides to run this event and also to others who worked hard to make this happen.' Dave P

The first Wheel-easy Reliability ride was held today. 36 signed on at the start, very professional, across all the groups Fast Medium and Steady. 10 went for the 40 mile option, and 6 finished within the time. Those that did well may now be tempted to try the 50 miles next time. My maths being good, 26 went the long way round, and did the 50 miles. 22 finished within the time of 4hrs. Those that didn't, I hope still enjoyed the experience, and will have something to aim at next time! Darren managed somehow to beat the 3hour barrier for the 50 miles, while our Bill was first to finish the 40 miles 2minutes before Darren. But there were good rides all round from all those who

finished within the time. The weather could have been a lot worse, and the showers held off thankfully, and no problems were reported. From comments after the event, it would appear that most enjoyed it! Some saying it was a bit different, and some were surprised at how well they did. This may now become a regular event in the Calendar. My thanks go to Caroline for time keeping, and our Eric for acting as our sweeper on the ride, but most of all, to all of you who took part and gave it a go, some for the first time. Well done.

This was the first time many of us had ridden in an event like this. No coffee stops, no official loo stops, no chatting, no looking at the scenery, no dawdling at the back, just get your head down and pedal. Except that of course we did not really understand this until the last ten miles when we really decided to go for it, hanging on to whoever came past us. Thankfully the 50 mile guys were able to give us a tow and the rules allowed us this luxury.

We met in Harrogate in the freezing cold and ambled down to Wetherby in time for a coffee. The atmosphere at the start was great, warm welcome from John and Caroline and wonderful help for the tail enders by Eric. The start was somewhat chaotic and the medium plus touring pace group struggled to get the mindset that we were here to pedal and little else besides. Anyway eventually we got the message and as the miles clocked by we upped our pace. We enjoyed the new challenge, rode through villages we didn't know, had a good time and made it back to a warm smiling welcome by John, Bill and Caroline. Even better the nice owners of the café at North Street deli stayed open way beyond their closing time to provide us with much needed nourishment. Everyone will have a tale to tell of their day but we all thoroughly enjoyed it and many thanks to John and the EG's for setting up the event. Gia



