

Sunday, May 20, 2012

Wheel Easy Ride Report 316



Boroughbridge Family Cycle Day

The third Boroughbridge Family Cycle Day attracted some 200+ cyclists of all ages who cycled 12 miles along the route of the Way of the Roses from Boroughbridge to Great Ouseburn and back. There was cycle proficiency training and entertainment provided by the Tholthorpe Jugglers prior to the ride and all children received a goodie bag and certificate on completion. Local MP Andrew Jones also made a speech prior to the start which included a plea to back Le Bid in Yorkshire. Wheel Easy were represented by Malcom, Martin W, Terry B, Neil, Martyn B and Malcolm's friend John from Canada. It was great to see so many youngsters cycling although Wheel Easy's role of ride marshalling was soon extended to cycle maintenance, particularly where trailer bikes were concerned - more spanners and some form of qualification in Meccano required for next time! After three café stops in 12 miles a ride back via Ripon was required - and not a stabiliser in sight. Thanks to all at WE who support the event. Martyn B

Short Ride Report

Many moons ago, I used to check the weather forecast on a Saturday, to assess how many layers I would need on the ride the next day. I may give up. Yesterday evening, on the BBC weather forecast, there was a yellow circle with a 16 on it sitting over Yorkshire. At 9.30 this morning it was closer to 6, or maybe even 4. That might be temperature or layers needed, it comes to the same thing. But 8 hardy souls opted for the short ride, out via Beckwithshaw to Hampsthwaite, back via Knox. Church bells were ringing as we arrived in at Sophies, as if on cue for new-ish rider Jim, hailing from West Virginia via Hawaii and the Marshall Islands (no, I didn't know where they were either). Nary a mention, to me anyway, of the final episodes of The Bridge, or the Champions League final. Which is as it should be. Many thanks to all for a very pleasant morning, and to Joe for back marking - what football folk call an assist, I believe. Justin

Medium Ride Report

No Fergie time dramatic winners, no penalty shoot out heroics, just a welcome return to Sunday morning normality. In dull, drab and frankly chilly weather 14 of us set off towards Beckwithshaw, giving way only to a marauding herd of cattle. For the first time in living memory there was no gale force head wind on the road up to Little Almscliffe. Having regrouped, we pretty soon split into 3 teams: one group travelling to Kettlesing and then enjoying the nice little hill past Birstwith Hall to Felliscliffe, a second group following the official route across Swarncliffe Top, and then the leader, who despite desperate attempts to get an organisational grip found himself separated from both groups and pedalling furiously to catch up with someone. Nonetheless, we all ended up at Sophie's in Hampsthwaite confronting another group of Harrogate cyclists and adding to the catering mayhem, and being at least partly responsible for yet another series of Mrs Overall moments. At this point the ringleader of the aforementioned break away group got his comeuppance, as his long anticipated bacon, egg and tomato butty was hijacked and scoffed by the official leader. Revenge is a dish best served hot! The return to Hornbeam passed without incident, although attempts to put the NHS to rights failed (as they always do). Chris M

Medium Plus Touring Pace Ride Report

A bit of loose organisation resulted in the ride leader completing a very nice ride with four others but with no idea how the majority fared after they pulled ahead up the hill from Hampsthwaite to Birstwith. They were briefly sighted again in the Auction Market cafe in Pateley Bridge, before heading off on the prescribed route I am sure. Suffice to say, all original starters were

experienced riders and the leader was confident that they could look after themselves.

Hills were advertised and hills we got including the very long, quiet climb through Thornthwaite to Yorke's Folly and the sharp uphill through Glasshouses and Smelthouses to Brimham Rocks. The Leader needed to get back to Harrogate for some bee-keeping duties at 14:30 so we re-routed through Hartwith and Birstwith with a final sharp hill up Hirst Lane to Swincliffe.

Many thanks to those who led themselves around the route and to those who complied with the Leader's changes of directions. The route would be interesting and challenging any time of the year, but I think I'd prefer it in cool May weather to hot July. btw - if anyone wants to host a colony of bees in their garden - let me know. Peter L

Alternative 'Medium Minus' Ride Report

Not wanting to hold up any medium plus riders who were popping over to Pateley Bridge for the morning, 3 medium minus riders snook off to make their own attack on Pateley. We were quickly overtaken by very fast boys, and then by jolly Peter's group setting a cracking pace. We managed to get along Penny Pot Lane and on to Menwith without too much effort, then instead of the normal turn right back down to Hampsthwaite we turned to the left and continued to Duck Lane ...very long and a bit boring, then gleefully (for me anyway) speeding down down down Greenhow Hill to Pateley and the Teacups cafe which was full of the medium plus group, The speedy boys seemed a little disconcerted when we said we were just stopping for a quick coffee then were going to continue up to Yorke's Folly and home! Little did they know we were going to return home along the valley and then over Hartwith Toll Bridge to Birstwith Hill and Hampsthwaite and then home. Liz was very excited to see a little stall selling interesting plants on the route, but sadly she had no panniers to carry a new garden in. By now we were cycling in full sun and there were disconcerting grey black shapes following the bikes as we went our own ways home at the Iron bridge. A super ride, thank you to the mechanic and tour guide. 39 miles which was a bit uppy in parts not much wind and sun???? what ..yes SUN. CG

Long Ride Report

Something new for most of the 8, i.e. no coffee for 40 miles, where the new territory break was at Hawnby. Richly deserved after the pull up from the castles of Kirby Knowle and the imaginary town (population 60) of Upsall. (Near the great house on the steep hillside is the fine forge of 1859, with the words Upsall Town carved over its horseshoe archway. Google homework.)

Across the moor and a bit of a walk down in places, more than 20 yds because of the heavy storm 2 weeks ago, though nothing like Hawnby's disaster flood in June 2005. The Rievaulx extension was swapped for an initially 1:4 harder climb, though well worth it for the views, and to the top of Sneck Yate from the other side. Sunshine finally took over instead of the chill wind, and a fast descent of Sutton Bank to Osgoodby Hall. Pete's new cross bike then thorned (not supposed to harm in bird breeding season) giving the rest of us a welcome sunshine break, and for the horses a good examination of sweaty bike tapes. To recover time we swapped Coxwold (since Glynn tends to disappear there) for Bagby and back the same route, but so pleasant it mattered not, and home with still 77 good miles , though less climbing, (av. 13.3) and back home early. Only Peter had the sense to look for a drink in Boroughbridge at closing time. Richard



