

Sunday, June 17, 2012

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 320



### Short Ride Report

Having debated which route we should go on, we settled for Hampsthwaite at a steady pace via Beckwithshaw and Penny Pot Hill. The 7 of us including Trudy, Lynda, Rachel, Ruth, Veronica and Diane soon hotfooted it to Sophie's despite Ruth's bike (borrowed from her daughter) playing up on the way. Despite our reluctance to leave, the group were clearly fired up with flapjackpower (Ruth's bike seem to have fixed itself) and made a swift return to Harrogate via Knox and then Trudy, Ruth and Lynda (we are a democratic lot) leading the way back to Hornbeam via the cyclepath (a new route for me). An enjoyable 17 miles. Rachael

### Medium Ride Report

Sunday's low turnout was probably due to the Great Yorkshire Bike Ride the day before and Wheel Easy! members' distrust of the weather, having experienced a week of downpours. However the medium ride was characterised by two things: spectacular scenery and the complete absence of precipitation! Our route took seven riders slogging up Pennypot Lane into a

headwind to then turn left up the B6451. The hard work done, we turned off down the narrow, potholed and neglected Brat Lane, stopping for a panoramic view up the valley to Swinsty Reservoir and Menwith Hill. An arc of history lay before us: the dry stone walls of the farms, perhaps dating back to Roman times, Swinsty Reservoir, built in 1878, the Menwith Hill 'golf balls' which began to grow on the hillside in the seventies and, in the distance, the more recent wind generators. View absorbed and pictures taken, we swept on down to Norwood Bottom from whence a short climb took us onto the road around the back of Stainburn Forest which Dennis informed us was planted for mine props. It was difficult to believe that we were but a few miles from Harrogate when confronted with views more reminiscent of Sweden or Canada. And, to top it all, it was almost all downhill home! Caroline was particularly effusive in her praise for really memorable ride, a sentiment that we all shared. Ian

#### Medium Plus Ride Report

As the web site was 'down' the route for this ride was not clearly remembered by anyone (especially the leader). With pooled knowledge of the route start at least, 14 riders set off to Spofforth and then on the road to North Deighton. Via the cycle path to Thorpe Archas this was a collaborative affair collective decisions were made with Terry taking the lead we continued to Cattal, Whixley and Thorpe Underwood. Coffee was required but unfortunately the farm shop was closed, so we re-traced our steps passed the frisky llamas and donkeys back on to the road and on to Boroughbridge. Experiencing the best weather for some time we were at first shocked to see blue sky and then warm sunshine but we coped. Arriving at the Tasty Snack around chaffinch o'clock (1pm by the cafe clock) we sat outside and had a pleasant repast. Back home via Roecliffe a very pleasant ride with excellent camaraderie and plenty of chat. Approx 42 miles Sue C

#### Long Ride Report

Combine a great route to Malham, a well matched group of 7 riders, good weather and a large slab of chocolate cake.

What do you get?

An almost perfect ride.

Shame the ride leader didn't know where he was going. Phil



