

Sunday, July 29, 2012

Wheel Easy Ride Report 326



Short Ride Report

What made today's short ride special was that our group of nine included five of our current starter riders - Jacqueline on her brand new Specialized, Janet, Sue R, and mother and daughter Charlotte and Lauren. We had 2 more Sue's, Sue A and Sue T who together with Paul offered us the luxury of 2 back markers. I made a brief sales pitch on behalf of Sophie's in Hampsthwaite, a promised land unknown to several of the group, and the smell of very good if distant coffee encouraged us to make good progress to Beckwithshaw and then down the hill to the bridge at Pot Bank. Three of the supposedly starter ladies seemed to have had something stronger than caffeine for breakfast (should Wheel Easy start dope testing?) as they sped ahead towards Pennypot where we regrouped for a photo shoot. Shortly after this the heavens opened and we had to take extra care on the slippery road down to Hampsthwaite, arriving at Sophie's fairly wet, but in time to watch most of the rain come down while we enjoyed our coffees and hot chocolates inside. Paul and Sue T opted to return without stopping.

At this point we were joined by, of all people, Darren, whose problem knee was objecting to the damp weather. Fortunately, the damp didn't affect his entertainment value. (See photo on Spruisty Bridge.) As we left the café a very brief but torrential downpour hit us, clearing away for a fine ride back. At the top of Knox Lane and with the sun shining we decided to add an extra loop down Tennyson and then up the cycle track to Dragon Bridge and across the Stray to Hornbeam with riders peeling off at various points to cycle home. As we all agreed, a thoroughly enjoyable ride with quite a bit of new territory for some of our recent 'starters'. 16 miles for those who finished at Hornbeam. Malcolm

Medium Ride Report

Welcome back to Paul B after his accident in June and to several starter riders from both our groups this year who came to join the medium and short rides today. I led the third group of the throng who chose the medium ride today, lots of returning riders, new riders, starter riders and visitors. We got a thorough soaking having observed the rain cloud ahead of us but this was fairly short lived and most of the ride was in warm sunny conditions. The ride of nearly 40 miles was a well ridden favourite to Ripon via Bishop Monkton and Littlethorpe and back via Skelton-on-Ure and Roecliffe. The first group were leaving Spa Gardens as we arrived, the second group choosing to have their café stop in Boroughbridge. In Roecliffe we saw a group from Skedaddle on The Way of The Roses ride who were having a picnic and was an opportunity for my sister to have a chat with them as she is riding C2C with them later this year. Was this a Wheel Easy first having 3 Ruth's on the ride? Great ride, good company and well done to everyone. Gia

Forgive me for I have sinned... Today I committed a cardinal sin in cycling, made worse by the fact that I was leading the ride. As we swung left after passing the Ripon Race Course, a sign came into view, obscured by luxuriant foliage brought on by our wet summer. The sign read 'Give way to oncoming Traffic' (on the narrow bridge). I sat up and slowed, expecting to stop, and forgot to raise my hand. Three following cyclists flashed past me followed by a prime expletive from the mouth of Deborah, a Wheel Easy first-timer who nearly rammed into me. To all cyclists on the medium faster (there were so many medium riders that we split into three groups, medium slower, medium medium and medium faster) I express my heartfelt apologies. Besides that it was a lovely ride in pleasant, if changeable, weather conditions with a coffee stop at what is allegedly the cheapest tea room in Yorkshire, Ripon Spa Gardens. Ian N

Medium Plus Touring Pace Ride Report

One of the things I love about Wheel Easy is the variety of topics that are covered during a ride. Topics included of course the race yesterday and how the girls were doing today (well done Lizzie) as well as the variety of items Terry buys in Evans and how they are likely to get an injunction out on him soon through to the Bearded Lady of Thirsk. I can only imagine the topics if we ever went to the pub... We needed lots of chat today to keep our spirits up in the wind and rain (I'm sure there was hail at some point) as we made our way up to Stumps Cross cavern and an early tea break (well two cups today). As we headed across to Bolton, Beamsley, Ilkley and Weston, the sun finally came out and we whizzed along to Cockpit Farm. We declined Terry's helpful suggestion to go up Askwith Hill and made our way to Otley, Pool, Castley and back via Kirkby Overblow. 58 miles for those who went back to Harrogate and longer for those who arrived and left via various routes. Thanks to the group for a good ride and for letting me lead from the back in the wet conditions. Thanks also to Terry for leading and Dave P for looking after me on those wet scary bends. Rachael H

Long Ride Report

There were 6 takers for the long ride to park rash which reduced to 5 before we set off as one rider changed to the medium ride instead. James, Eric, David, Mike and I set off to Beckwithshaw and then Penny Pot lane where Mike decided the pace was to slow and disappeared into the distance never to be seen again -well, not on this ride anyway. At the turning for duck street, 2 riders joined from the medium plus ride - Peter and Steve, not put off by the first downpour of the day.

Once again when we turned for Grassington it was a case of pedaling down hill into the wind. Eric stopped at Stump Cross for a phone call and we continued to Hebden and waited for him. Just after setting off came downpour number 2. We all made it to Cobblestones cafe for a dry out at which point the ride was decided. Eric was always turning back at this point along with David. Peter and Steve were not tempted to join the Park Rashers so rather than endure a ride through Coverdale in a group of 2 riders dodging sheep, gravel and potholes whilst trying to stay upright, it was decided to rename this Park Rash attempt 1. Stood in the rain shivering before we left it was the right decision which was confirmed by another downpour as we cycled back up to Stump Cross. David climbed all the way to Duck Street at a rate of knots and when we re grouped David continued on leaving 4 riders. Eric took a different route from Menwith leaving Peter, Steve and myself to return via Hampsthwaite and Knox Lane. Approx 53 wet and windy miles but good company and strangley enjoyable. Simon H

The Wheel Easy Ladies Triathlon Team after the Leeds event today



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