

Sunday, September 16, 2012
Wheel Easy Ride Report 333



Martin started the introductions by welcoming new members Geoff, Enid, Callum, Clint, Sandy, Stephen and Alison. We now have 323 Wheel Easy members.

Short Ride Report

Knaresborough via Follifoot, Spofforth and Little Ribston > Harrogate via Abbey Road and Bogs Lane 15.5mi Eleven noble souls joined me from Hornbeam - welcome to the new riders and thank you to Christine, Jonathan, Kevin and Sue for returning for another Wheel Easy experience! The going was good and despite feeling rather inadequate when we were overtaken by a unicycle and having to wait in the Showground for the safe alighting from their coach of Flower Show visitors, we positively hared up Rudding Lane to the joys of the undulations into Follifoot and thence to the Fellowship Meeting House beyond Little Ribston where a proposed coffee stop beside the Nidd received unanimous approval. Bikes were tethered and a rush to order an array of scrummy cakes took place - well almost! The ride leader was beaten by an over enthusiastic bungee which sprang with gusto from it's anchor

point and released her cycle bag underneath a hawthorn hedge. As if that were not enough, the bag then shot down a bank and came to rest uncomfortably close to the Nidd. Thank you, Diane, for having the coffee ready when a rather embarrassed one re-joined the happy throng of swiggers! Upon return to the environs of Harrogate, there was much going solo to various homes/Sunday lunches/post ride snoozes. Thank you all. Sue Downes

Medium 'Short Ride' Report

Twenty two riders opted for the 23 mile ride to Wetherby. David and William and myself each led a group of 7 or 8. Robin from Leeds joined us for a 'taster session' before deciding if to join. The route took us via Burn Bridge, Walton Head Lane, Kirkby Overblow and Sicklinghall. Wheel Easy member Sarah R who was out by herself joined us for coffee before she returned to Leeds. The route home was Kirk Deighton, Little Ribston, Spofforth and Follifoot. Paul

Medium 'Long Ride' Report

The weather forecast promised rain and strong winds but the winds were behind us when it mattered and the rain stayed away. There were 10 takers for the Pateley ride but by the time we reached Little Almscliffe the group had naturally fallen into 2 groups. Bill W was prevailed upon to take away Bob, Kevin K, Jen and Enid. They were last seen leaving the Cattle Mart cafe at Pateley which they had arrived at 20 mins before Alison, Caroline, Keith, Helen and Liz. The route was Menwith, Delves Ridge, turn right at Roundells Allotment, Fouldshaw and down Yorke's Folly with stupendous views up Nidderdale. We then stopped for a chat with James C who was having a non cycling day. The return was up the steep hill at Glasshouses followed by the steep hill to Blazefield. More stupendous views and a lot of chat were enjoyed as we passed Fellbeck and then turned right to enjoy the mostly downhill swoop past Rabbit farm, the Drovers cross roads and into Ripley. As Spruisty Bridge was closed we had to do an extension which involved going right at Killinghall, across the A59 and down Oakdale Bank. Though CG declined to join us! About 40 miles. Liz

Medium Plus Ride Report

We started as nine riders, and we kept growing until we actually made 13 in our group altogether. The grey sky with patches of blue was accompanied by very strong wind. Although we scooted along heading to Ripon, and then onwards to Thorpe Perrow for a cafe break, we realised that getting back into the wind all the way from Jervaulx Abbey was going to be too much for everyone. So we settled on a modified ride, climbing over to Masham, up to

Swinton Park, Grewelthorpe and a quick whiz back to Ripon where a few of us succumbed to the temptations of Cafe Nero, while others headed back (some via the pub?). A brisk ride in good company, and the weather held out until we got home. Congratulations to Neeta on her first solo 60 miles, and if she doesn't slow down a bit we won't ride with her! Martin W.

Long Ride Report

Six riders set out on the long ride with one of them already declaring that he would be turning off to return to his gardening chores. The weather was a typical September day i.e. bright sunshine with a nip in the air and a forecast for heavy showers. The ride proceeded without any mishaps to Castle Howard via Easingwold and Sheriff Hutton. We were all surprised to find a deli/cafe on the main road in Easingwold open. We were greeted by the friendly owner and the food and drinks were very good in deed. The good news about the chosen route to Castle Howard was it avoided Terrington Bank; the bad news was that we had to climb Bulmer Bank (1 in 6 gradient). After Castle Howard the ride went to Terrington and as the cafe was closed, as usual, we had to join all the tourist/holidaymakers at the Yorkshire Lavender Farm. Then it was on to Bransby which involved tackling some more steep hills. The group stop to investigate "The City of Troy"; this is a 7 ring turf maze between the villages of Dalby and Bransby, described as the smallest turf maze in Europe. Wheeleasy is not all about cycling, it also provides a bit of culture. After Bransby it was heads down and back to Harrogate via Crayke, Easingwold, Gt. Ouseburn and Knaresborough. By regularly changing the lead rider the peloton made good progress into the strong headwind back to Harrogate and returned before the rain set in. Peter J



