

Sunday, October 14, 2012
Wheel Easy Ride Report 337



Brompton on Swale Ride Report - Bridge Opening

Only 3 WE members set off from Snape at the appointed hour and that was after a demonstration from Paul B as to how to assemble a bike. The sun was shining, there were wonderful views but there was certainly a nip in the air. We passed through Great Crakehall and Hackforth then stopped for sustenance in a cafe in Catterick Village but still managed to arrive at Brompton on Swale far too early so we rode over the unopened bridge and followed the cycle route towards Catterick Garrison. On our return Gia and Malcolm had arrived and some of us had our bikes police marked and indulged in ice cream while we waited for William Hague. We headed over the bridge once it had opened and, all being frozen, headed back, though had to stop at a shop to sort out a starving Paul. Our ride out was retraced until Richard managed to distract us and we ended up in Thornton Watlass. 31 miles. Liz

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Short Ride Report

Twelve riders including possible new member Jeremy opted to tackle the hills of south Harrogate. The route to Knaresborough took us through Burn Bridge, up Walton Head Lane to Kirkby Overblow, along Follifoot Lane, Drury Lane and Follifoot Road, and through Follifoot and Calcutt. After refreshments we cycled up the hill past Harrogate Golf Course before choosing to return home either via Bogs Lane or directly back to Hornbeam. Thanks to Kevin for leading a group on the occasions we split up and for back marking the whole group. 15.5 miles. Paul

Medium Ride Report

About 25 people joined the medium ride so we split into three groups led by Caroline, Jill and myself. It was pretty much a perfect ride. The weather was sunny and the rain held out until we were all safe and warm at home. Our group found ourselves first in the queue at Ripon Spa Gardens café. We had a tail wind as we rode up the hill into Knaresborough and the lights were in our favour descending through the town. A reflection on safety. Near the start of the ride a car with a trailer overtook some of our members. The car gave plenty of leeway but was then faced with a car coming towards it on the other side of the road. The car with trailer then swung left, narrowly missing some cyclists. While in most instances it is better to keep well to the left of the road, I believe that there are times when cyclists need to be assertive. For example, on a blind left-hander it is better to 'occupy' the road thus preventing the situation when a car overtakes then pulls left leaving the cyclist lying in a ditch. Here endeth the sermon. Ian

16 riders set off and made it to Low Bridge. A vote was taken and it was decided to miss out Ripon and head straight for coffee at Boroughbridge. 14 riders arrived at the bench before the descent into Bishop Monkton. A search party of 2 set off and did a pincer movement of Burton Leonard with the remaining 12 making it to Littlethorpe. The search party caught up at the canal at Ripon but without the 2 they had gone looking for. The 2 were not seen again and we hope that they made it back safely. 14 however did arrive in Boroughbridge where 3 decided to head straight home with 11 going for a coffee. The remaining 11 returned to Knaresborough via Minskip and Staveley and onwards to Harrogate with departures at regular intervals along the return route. Jill

Medium Plus Ride Report

The weather turned out to be a bright, crisp and sunny day that encouraged 8 riders to undertake the Medium Plus ride to Ilkley. Early on it was apparent that one rider, Bob, was not able to maintain the pace set by the others. Despite the difference in pace, on reaching Fewston Bob caught us up. At this point another member of the group decided to return to Harrogate. After a brief stop at the conveniences we set off to Ilkley via Timble, and Askwith. Again the six set a reasonable pace with Bob bring up the rear. The group of six arrived in Ilkley and within a few minutes of us ordering our refreshments Bob appeared. In fact Bob had the better deal as there was now room for him inside the cafe whereas we early birds had to sit outside. After refreshments six of us set off on the return leg via the back road to Otley where we met Gia's group at the Cockpit Cafe. Two brave souls from Gia's group decided to join our group for the return ride back Harrogate. The ride returned to Harrogate via Pool, Casteley, Weeton and Kirkby Overblow. At the showground PJ decided to avoid the steep hill in the showground and left the remainder of the group to make their own way back to Hornbeam. Peter

Another fine October day brought out plenty of riders and there was a good choice of rides for everyone. Nine of us went for the shortened Ilkley ride which effectively means cycling to Fewston, Timble, over the moor to Askwith and then turning left to Cockpit Farm. The views today were spectacular, beautiful reflections in the reservoirs and leaves on the trees just beginning to turn. One of our group reflected on how public opinion would be today if the reservoirs hadn't been built when they were, but were about to be built now!! Answers on a postcard. Another strand of conversation was about the decision after the second world war not to designate the area as a National Park, but I didn't hear the end of the story! We sat out in the sunshine at Cockpit, admired a young woman who arrived on a single speed bike, wearing a substantial rucksack and ugg boots! and the long long line of bikes parked up against the stone wall of the garden. We left in dribs and drabs to return home, the true medium plus group arrived at Cockpit, having accomplished the ride as per the calendar and scooped up two of our quicker riders. Home via Otley and Castley. A super ride, a first for some and surprisingly a first visit to Cockpit Farm for one! 33 miles. Gia

Long Ride Report

Boroughbridge, Bagby, Boltby Bank, Bylands, Back was the preview and all seemed fine till after a good climb and lunch at Hawnby PO, Andy had to go back to retrieve his wallet while we sheltered in at the bus stop. Then a bit further down up and up at the furthest point Dan advised Richard he had to be back for 4. Fortunately he conceded 4.30 was just ok and was duly dispatched ahead, being reminded that a good fast ride would open up his

lungs. A few more climbs in territory new to many and we saw off Dan again and down White Horse Bank. Though mainly only drizzle by now the roads were pretty wet and we were well splattered but still admitted to the only cafe open in BoroB. 78 miles at a good work out speed for some with plenty of climbs and autumn tints finished with a bike wash. Richard



