

Sunday, November 4, 2012
Wheel Easy Ride Report 340



We all woke this morning to foggy and cold weather but that did not stop an unbelievable turn out of riders at Hornbeam. Due to the poor visibility Gia and Martin decided to cancel the Wheel Easy led rides. However, a few riders decided to go instead for a walk while others went off in small groups for a bike ride.

James's Ride

James group comprising Liz, Linda, Caroline, Max, Tim and James decided to brave the elements with caution and set off for Boroughbridge, via Knaresborough where a helmet was collected for Linda, who had inadvertently set off from home without hers. Once over Forest Moor and into Knaresborough there was a marginal improvement in the weather and by the time we had made it to the top of the hill out of Farnham it was very much clearer and indeed the sun shone from time to time - something about "on the righteous" springs to mind ! Heading through Occaney and round Burton Leonard good progress was made to Bishop Monkton where we assemble on the bridge over the beck for a photo shoot courtesy of Liz with efforts being

made to capture the shadows cast by the sun! We arrived for a coffee stop in Boroughbridge just at the right time as a larger Wheel Easy group vacated the cafe. Having thawed out the general consensus was to return via Minskip and Staveley, but before we could leave everyone had to have a go at freeing James from his jacket whose zip had caught in the main fabric and refused to move up or down and almost prevented him from getting to his money, but with prospect of the washing up looming he managed to extract enough to pay! Caroline decided a photographic record was required and this may appear elsewhere. The return into Knaresborough was accomplished without further incident, where James peeled off home and the remainder went on to disperse around Harrogate. After a not very promising start with the weather, a good ride was had by all. James Grimshaw

Dave's Ride

It was with no little trepidation that we departed Hornbeam this morning. There was no shortage of advice about the dangers. Ice below; fog above; cars behind. What on Earth could lay ahead? Four of us tentatively mentioned Boroughbridge, in hushed tones, and slipped off into the gloom. At the first lights, a small voice was heard from behind, "Wait for us, we're coming with you." By the time we had reached Woodlands, we were eleven pretty cold cyclists, wondering whether we had made the right decision. Why is it that gloves which are perfectly adequate up a mountain, at -11deg C when skiing, can leave you with freezing fingers within fifteen minutes of setting off cycling, in above zero temperatures? Had we forgotten how many layers are required at this time of year? It was definitely a morning for the monkeys; (brass that is). The Farnham Freewheel Competition produced an odd result, in the light of the generally expressed supposition that "it's weight that counts". We're not having that are we Sarah, (2nd.), and Bill (3rd.). Oh, and by the way, I won. It's my nice new wheels wot did it! Sonia rose to the occasion with bacon butties, hot beverages, and a nice cuddle. The Sun even appeared briefly. We returned via Ouseburn and Marton. Back to Hornbeam for 1-30 after about 25 very pleasant miles. Welcome to Neil, Robert, and Eric, whom I had not met before. Great leading assistance from Dave P (thanks). Stimulating conversation from Bill and Justin on the theory of freewheeling. Thanks for coming with us and brightening up our day, Sarah, Monica, Bridget, and Sue. A ride to remember. Dave S.



