

Sunday, February 24, 2013

Wheel Easy Ride Report 356



Short Ride

A select group of nine riders gathered for the Short Ride and left Hornbeam with the intention of covering about 14/15 miles via Follifoot and Knaresborough on what had been forecast as quite a cold day when the wind chill factor was taken into account, but which in fact turned out not to be as bad as feared and even featured some sun shine for a short period! The usual route through the Show Ground was taken, although the main gates were closed and so we had to squeeze through the pedestrian access styles which seem to become even narrower than normal! Undeterred progress was made along Rudding Lane with a right turn just before the By-Pass towards Pannal

and then a left turn into Haggs Road. Having safely negotiated the crossing of the By-Pass, Haggs Road was followed down to the junction with Follifoot/Spofforth road just outside Spofforth where, after a brief discussion, the Short Ride just became a little longer by unanimous vote and we continued down the Cycle Path to Wetherby. Turning left at the end of the Cycle Path the familiar route through Kirk Deighton and Little Ribston was followed into Knaresborough where coffee was taken at the Marigold on Waterside before returning up Knaresborough Hill and then parting company to go our several ways home. An enjoyable ride in good company and with not too inclement weather was had by all, but regrettably the Leader forgot to take the camera so there is no photograph this week! James G



Medium Ride

Hornbeam, Knaresborough, Little Ribston, North Deighton, Kirk Deighton, Wetherby Cycle Path, Thorpe Arch village, Boston Spa, Cycle Path to Wetherby, Harland Way, Spofforth, Follifoot, Rudding, Hornbeam. 27 miles

This was not the "advertised" route but a quick phone call yesterday from Leader Paul B confirmed my own feeling that Fewston Bents etc could be icy and so an alternative was planned. Eighteen Medium-ers gathered and split themselves into two nines – Speedies with Paul and Sedatees with me. We all managed the changing lights simultaneously which is quite an achievement and arrived at Low Bridgeto see the Speedies slightly ahead of us. A brief discussion with Ada-loop Graham about taking in Boston Spa etc seemed like a good idea –er being a Geographer and all that. With this in mind, we passed the Speedies who were lurking outside a shop in Wetherby – no stopping here for the Sedatees. We shot along through the tunnel under the A1, carefully avoiding a vast number of piles of dogdirt (do dog owners think that scooping underground isn't necessary ?) and onto the cycle path to Thorpe Arch. We went straight through the village and into the loo park at Boston Spa – an opportunity for ease, bananas and a photo. Then 'twas onward to the cyclepath to Bramham but we actually opted for returning to Wetherby for coffee. SueT left us here and Filmore and Union proved an excellent choice. On seeing a group of sedate and well-spoken patrons (ie nobody mentioned scones!), two tables received "reserved" signs and we duly submitted ourselves to the joys of Florentines and toasted fruit loaf. There was a slight problem before we hit the Harland Way path when Graham's chain played up but Liz, who has been on courses, rushed to his aid and solved the problem so 'twas upward and onward – skies were bright and clear, a kite was soaring and all was well. We flew puffingly into Follifoot and bade farewell to Graham and Ann and then descended and ascended to the Showground Cycle Path where discussion took place re the return route. Liz and I were joined by Caroline, Jane and Fiona as we scaled that pig of a climb to the Golf Club. Three cheers for the latter three who remained in their saddles – Liz and I enjoyed a nice amble. We parted company on Hookstone Road and I rode alone to Hornbeam but en route was delighted to meet a former work colleague who expressed her

admiration for my apparent fitness!!! My admiration and thanks to all Sedatees and to Paul for the ice-free route. Sue



There being the potential for ice on the hills, the medium ride was rescheduled for a flatter, shorter excursion. Sue D took the stately group and we thirteen of the elite group set off for Wetherby via Knaresborough and Little Ribston. Quite uneventful yet the usual WE harmonious ride (except for a couple of old blokes at the back moaning that we were going too fast). Five decided to eschew the delights of Morrison's caff and make their way back via Kirby Overblow. The rest, suitably refreshed, returned via Spofforth and Follifoot. An easy 21 miles, just like the medium rides of yore. Paul B





Medium Plus Ride

I always believed that there were dragons and outlaws south of Wetherby, but it was obviously far too cold for them today and instead we found a delightful cafe at Boston Percy. By that time our numbers had dropped from 16 to a hardy band of 10. After a good refueling on coffee, tea, teacakes and an exotic fruit salad for Rachel we continued past Tadcaster to Wetherby. A final group completed the route via Sicklinghall and Kirkby Overblow where the ice storm started. Yes it was ice and we could hear it literally hissing down. A tough end to an otherwise enjoyable 48 miles. Martin W.

Five riders left the main group after Cattal. We rode on a more direct route to Tadcaster, stopping at Cycle Sense to make some purchases. Wetherby became the chosen coffee destination where the cappuccinos failed to come up to the required standard, despite the claims of this popular establishment! We cycled back to Harrogate along the cycle path to Spofforth where we met another group from Martin's original pack. It is always nice to meet another of our groups out on the road and hear their tales. Back in Harrogate in time for Terry to get to work, Gia to go shopping, Paul to watch the football, Steve and Justin to be very satisfied on completing over 40 miles in their quest to regain fitness. Many thanks to Helen and Keith who are gradually adding new rides to our calendar. Gia





Long Ride

It was a cold start at Hornbeam & I was joined by Phil, Eric, Glyn & Jo on the long ride to Thirsk today. It was a brisk ride via Boroughbridge, Thornton Bridge, Hutton Sessay & Dalton with a brief stop in Sowerby to check some historical facts before arriving in Thirsk for an early lunch stop. A slight variation for the return ride took us through Topcliffe, Cundall & Norton Le Clay before retracing our outward route from Boroughbridge. Although cold the weather was otherwise kind to us as we arrived back in Harrogate at 2.30 just ahead of the snow/sleet/hail showers. A good winter ride in good company. Jill

