

Sunday, August 4, 2013

Wheel Easy Ride Report 379

Short Ride Report

Today's short ride saw a couple of new riders to Wheel Easy – John R's next door neighbour, Martin and new lady Anne-Marie and Barbara who had been just a couple of times previously. We set off as ten but John R was just back marking temporarily until the end of Hookstone where we were nine. The ride initially headed out into Follifoot and back towards Calcutt where the new riders had the option of heading back to Hornbeam – but they were more than able and we all continued along Abbey Road, Chain Lane and to the end of Hyde Park Road. A couple of options were discussed about adding on the extra miles towards Farnham, Scotton and Ripley, which was taken up by Monica, Marion, Debbie and Martin! The remaining five (Barbara, Lynda, Anne-Marie, Sue and myself) headed back into Knaresborough via Stockwell Road and along Waterside for a very pleasant cuppa in the sunshine by the river. Saying bye to Barbara as she headed home in the opposite direction, the four of us headed up Knaresborough hill and on to our separate ways home. Hope the new riders enjoyed their first outing with Wheel Easy – and hope everyone enjoyed a lovely ride, thank you all. Sue T



Medium Ride Report

The route was Knaresborough, Farnham, Arkendale, Great Ouseburn, Cattal, Thorpe Arch, Spofforth, Rudding Park and there were 24 takers who were divided between Peter, Dennis and I. There were eleven in my group and after a complaint at Farnham our next stop was at Ouseburn which provided the seat and shade requested but unfortunately not the best position for a photo as will be seen if it is printed! At the end of Rudgate Lane part of Peter's group were waiting for us and we all ended up at the Thorpe Arch cafe within a few minutes of each other. However the cafe coped admirably and some of us enjoyed scones straight from the oven, sat outside in the sunshine. A group of eleven accompanied me back to Harrogate though there was a large change of personnel between groups which meant we could catch up with other gossip! About 40 miles and thanks to Joe for back marking. Liz P

Medium Plus Ride Report

A dozen riders set out on the Fast ride, at Little Alms Cliff we were caught by the Slow Ride so we sped off to Ilkley where during the coffee stop I made enquiries as to who would be interested in the optional loop up onto Ilkley Moor past the Cow and Calf, fully expecting a resounding "Don't be daft!". Happily most riders were up for this detour, although the level of enthusiasm ranged from "Yeah, I'm up for that" to "Aw, alright then", so two of our merry band left us at Ilkley due

to family commitments while the rest of our plucky heroes set off up the Cow and Calf ridge. All 2 miles and 750ft of it. Enthusiasm was still high at the top of the ridge where we were rewarded with a fantastic view, however during the next 500ft of climbing over the Chevin there were grumblings about "who's silly bl**dy idea was this?" but our efforts were again rewarded by a thrilling descent from Bramhope after which we re-joined the original route at Pool and back via Ridding Park where the hills at the Showground felt like mere pimples. Many thanks to all my fellow riders for having a sense of humour. Barbara D



Long Ride Report

Initially eight riders set off from Hornbeam to start the Silsden Special and Peter Roberts joined us on en route. The ride lived up to its reputation in providing a very challenging hilly ride. Although plenty calories were taken on board at Burnsall and additional stop was called for at Otley in order to complete the final leg of the ride. Congratulations to Nick who was crowned King of the Mountains for being first up all the climbs. Eric W deserves an award for determination

as he completed the ride with an average speed of twelve mph and completed approximately 4,500 feet of climbing. Well done to all those that took part and look forward to seeing you next year and anyone else who fancies a bit of a hilly challenge. Peter J



Away Day at Settle Ride Report

Another fine day dawned for the Away Day and Keith assured us it would not rain until 3.00 p.m. We were a group of seven, as at 09.59 a.m., comprising, Howard, Yvonne & Martin, a Steve, Debbie, Keith & Me. We had failed to notice the young man at the other side of the car park until we set off one minute early and then spotted him peddling like crazy to intercept us. It was young Kevin who we had not met before, so he was the eighth of quite an elite group. Howard had brought his Spitfire pictures to show us – Top Gun has got nothing on Howard. I particularly liked the one of him at the controls, still smiling and not vomiting whilst very obviously upside down. The route was described as “moderate”, which meant that the sharp inclines were not that long – just a lot of ‘em! We were immediately on quiet, narrow country roads and enjoyed a delightful meander through Little Stainforth, Austwick and on to Clapham for a wee and a chat (not simultaneously). We resisted the temptation of an early coffee in Ingleton and settled for another wee and a chat and then continued, getting perilously close to Lancashire via Bentham and Wennington and along the delightful River Hindburn. We paused at Wray for various bacon/egg/sausage sandwiches/baked potatoes and sat outside in hot sunshine, putting the world to rights, until Keith was stung by a wasp. Rather an ungrateful wasp it has to be said because only seconds before the attack, it was drinking tea from Keith’s saucer. There was a rather nice roundabout in the garden, presumably for little children to play on but in the absence of any little children, we all had a go (see photograph). We think the man in the background, taking our picture, was either a policeman or someone from the Criminal Records Bureau. Refreshed, we left before we were slung out and enjoyed an idyllic ridge run through places reminiscent of Lord of the Rings, like Keasdon and Eldroth. All the while we had distant views of Ingleborough and Pen y Gent, then all too soon we found ourselves on the gentle descent back in to Settle, returning at 3.00 p.m., just as the drizzle started – exactly as Keith had foretold. 37 miles in spectacular Dales scenery. Keith & Helen



