

Sunday, October 13, 2013

Wheel Easy Ride Report 389

Short Ride Report

I have very little idea what happened on our ride as I spent most of it giving new meaning to the term 'leading from the back', which today meant several miles back. This was because I suffered the only punctures of the day, and for good measure my rear wheel with its brand new armoured Durano outer was pierced not once but twice, first just after the Squinting Cat and then just before Ripley Castle. However, I do know that the 12 of us enjoyed the ride at least as far as Hampsthwaite, where I caught up with the group after the first puncture. We repeated the same hard-to-beat route Jean led several of us along last week - Stainburn Woods, Menwith Hill, High Birstwith and down to Sophie's, the perfect stop as always. John and Sheila, with limited time, left there early, and the rest of us split into 3, Jennifer returning up Rowden Lane, others up Hollins Lane, and the remaining 6 via Ripley. First timer Susan, on a borrowed bike, did well to manage Clint Bank, and kept me company while I showed her how to repair a puncture with difficulty, and then along the Greenway into Harrogate. Many thanks to Jean and any others who led the ride in my absence and to Michelle for the spare inner, welcome to Jo and Suzanne who I don't think I've cycled with before, and very good to see Lynda N, Sue A and Fiona who, for various reasons, haven't recently been able to cycle with Wheel Easy as much as they would have liked to. Apologies for the distance, about 24 miles instead of 15, but no one seemed to mind. Malcolm



Medium+ Slower Ride Report

Wheel Easy cyclists usually a hardy lot were either sunning themselves in some warmer clime or had seen the weather forecast and decided today was going to be a washout. Those of us who did turn out were filmed for the Visit Harrogate promotional DVD featuring Martin and Yvonne and Kevin D as the main stars. I think the rest of us are termed "extras". Apparently we will get a copy which we can use. Anyway enough of this, it was time to cycle, but our exit from the car park was delayed as we assisted a pedestrian who had fallen over. Bash with his first aid skills took over and the guys helped to carry her back in to the hotel awaiting an ambulance. After that drama 9 of us set off, found the lights on Stray Rein in our favour, sped on to Hampsthwaite where we did not loiter and up to Clint Bank and Burnt Yates. Somehow we met Peter B coming towards us..... twice! How does that work Peter? Peter L on his single gear bike returned home via the Toll Bridge. Here the wavering started with plans to meet up at Brimham and reassess the route as we could see banks of rain and drizzle ahead of us. The consensus after considering various options was that Dallowgill was off for the day and with the worsening rain a sprint home via Warsill, Ripley and the Greenway for coffee and lunch at Caffè Rosso in Harrogate was the best

option. 27 quality miles, good company, good pace and within an hour of being home I am sure I saw some sunshine and the short ride are still not home!!!
Gia



Medium+ Ride Report

The weather forecast, regardless of which of the many websites available I inspected, was for light rain followed by heavy rain and so it was a bonus when I opened the curtains first thing to find it wasn't raining. Still dry at Hornbeam and five elected to ride in my group and take on a fairly hilly ride up Clint Bank to Brimham Rocks, which we did with few stops and at a reasonable pace. In spite of blustery winds and the threat of worsening weather conditions as we stood at the junction with the B6265 it was not too difficult to persuade everyone to follow the planned route. However the rain and strong headwind across Dallowgill Moor did make things more difficult than usual. We stopped at a number of junctions between Grantley and our approach to Studley Royal Deer Park to confirm we were taking the correct route and were glad to make it to Ripon Spa Gardens for some shelter and sustenance out of the rain which had finally caught up with us

- just ahead of the long ride who had opted for a not-so-long ride in these conditions. So suitably refreshed (and a little drier) we made our way from Ripon to Bishop Monkton where I left the group and headed back to Boroughbridge (Daughter's 8th Birthday) leaving the remaining five to head back to Harrogate via Markington and Ripley. So a good ride today in excellent company and with plenty of volunteers to do their bit at the front which I clocked at 50 miles. Martyn B

Long Ride Report

This Long Ride was supposed to be the previously cancelled ride to Ampleforth, but the weather gods were against us and it was decided to abandon the original ride. The four riders decided to head north and west to try and avoid both the wind and rain. The actual route was now decided by committee with the ride leader having a casting vote. Initially the route turned out to be circuitous one to Ripon going via the Green Way, Bedlam, Shaw Mills, Bishop Thornton, Markington, Inglethorpe, Bishop Monkton and Little Thorpe. Having passed some Wheeleasey riders near Littlethorpe we set off with gusto to Hutton Conyers, Wath and West Tanfield. At West Tanfield we were all feeling the effects of the very strong and blustery head winds and the persistent drizzle, so the committee decided to return to Ripon via Mickley. After a brief respite at Spa Gardens where we met up with another Wheeleasey group it was back to Harrogate via Studley Park, Fountains, Bishop Thornton and Ripley. Peter J