

Sunday, December 22, 2013

Wheel Easy Ride Report 399

Medium Ride Report

Prior to the ride it was decided that the coffee stop would be near the end of the ride in Knaresborough so those who didn't have time for a coffee could return home to continue with Christmas preparations. Sixteen opted for the ride to Boroughbridge so it was two groups of eight. The route took us through Knaresborough, Farnham, Ferrensby, Arkendale, Marton, Upper Dunsforth, Lower Dunsforth to Boroughbridge. The return to Knaresborough was into the wind all the way. At Farnham we passed two young ladies on bikes with full panniers who had decided for Christmas they would tour around Yorkshire. At Knaresborough the group split with half returning home and half heading for coffee in the market place. A good 35 mile ride. Seasons Greetings to everyone.

Justin's Medium Ride Report

A good turnout for the Medium Ride today - maybe the ideal balance between getting out and filling up with sausages on sticks at pre-Christmas parties. Starting out as eight, following Groupe Tindle, we were nine by Low Bridge and ten by Arkendale. The folly of attempting Yorke's Folly on the Medium Plus, on a day of stiff winds, may have swelled our numbers. Having been promised rain around eleven, we got to Aldborough under a clear blue sky. Four opted to stop in Boroughbridge, exercising their inalienable right to coffee and teacake, while Les Six pressed on towards Knaresborough. There were the usual Wheel Easy favourites, including wind on the nose after Minskip and the disconcerting side-wind just after Staveley, but still no rain. Four of us stopped at the Riverside in Knaresborough - excellent mince pies - before heading up Knaresborough Hill and home. Back under still-clear blue sky around one pm, having managed just under 30 miles. Many thanks to all for an enjoyable ride. Justin K

Justin led us through weather much better than forecast, to Boroughbridge, here Jill J, James and two Daves overcome by their craving for caffeine and toasted teacakes diverted in to Tasy Snacks to indulge in that favourite cyclist pastime i.e. sustenance and a good natter. Whilst sat in the window (see photo) Paul T's group swept past the cafe (how did we get in front?). Then back in the face of the wind to Knaresborough, here Dave W gets a mention in dispatches for pushing the wind all the way. On the way in we met up with Malcolm Yates, who used to ride with Wheel Easy in the early days. Malcolm not only rode the Three Peaks Cyclo Cross race, but won it on many occasions, often in record time. Now there's tough for you. Brilliant weather as we come to the end of the years rides. Dave P





Medium-Plus Ride Report

Six of us cobbled together a ride that took in 37 miles, a flattish start out to Bishop Monkton and then a climb up from Warsill to Brimham Rocks. It is unusual for us to do this ride in this direction but gave us that sense of satisfaction to work hard to get to a point from where we had the luxury of riding down to Brimham, Stripes Lane and across the toll bridge to Hartwith. Along the way we saw a heron in Markington and some fine species that Colin caught a glimpse of but the rest of us were too slow to catch this one.

We enjoyed the warmth and welcome at Sophie's before heading home where a puncture caused a short delay. Always helpful to ride with an expert tyre changer!

Sorry no picture but being out today was like being in a picture, wonderful landscapes, views, buffeting wind behind and at our sides and mostly in sunshine. Gia M

Long Ride Report

Eight riders took part in the Long Ride on this Sunday before Christmas; it is amazing what some people will do to avoid Christmas shopping. We made our way to Masham via a circuitous route going via Ripley, Markington, Bishop Monkton, Ripon, Wath and Well. The ride managed to find the clartiest lanes in North Yorkshire. On reaching Masham we congratulated ourselves on having had some decent weather. On leaving Masham we encountered a vicious hail storm, although short and very sharp, it managed to "sand blast" our faces, similarly when leaving Ripon we were subjected to a similar hail storm. At the end of the ride the only complaint was that we were all going to spend the rest of day cleaning our bikes. The ride was a comparatively short long ride; well it was on the day following the shortest day. Peter J.