

Sunday, January 18, 2015

Wheel Easy Ride Report 455

Short Exercise

Today in very icy conditions, sixteen people turned up at Hornbeam on foot and hoping to walk, plus Eric who shark like, skirted round the edge of Hornbeam car park and Terry Smith (there again it might well have been his doppelganger Phil Snell) and a visitor who had expected cyclists, arrived on bikes, inspected our whimpishness, and then set off for somewhere in a very macho manner, on two wheels. The walking fourteen set off in a gentle, mincing manner due the extremely slippery paths. Only Richard and Liz who were equipped with springy things round their feet strode onwards and upwards towards Leadhall Lane and Rossett,, where John left us. A gentle prance across the fields from Pannal Ash to Lady Lane and passed the Police Station led us to Harlow Carr, where three mincers chose to test some of the facilities. James left us to get back to Hornbeam and a family lunch, the rest of the group, now fourteen, continued our sliding in increasing grey to any coffee shop that would be willing to serve us anything warm. Cleverly someone thought that Coldbath Road would have such a venue and thankfully as it started to sleet, snow, and amazingly rain, Sue C. declared that Eton Café would accommodate us and as they served us with double quantities of scones, crumpets, cakes, coffee, OJ, and teacakes, we dripped moistly all over the café. an hour later we all headed wetly homewards. A gentle stroll of about 6.5 miles, but certainly better than anyone who spent the morning on the sofa. Roll on spring. CG

With reference to this defamatory Short Exercise report, my solicitor has advised me to point out that the shark-like person seen skirting around the edge of the Hornbeam car-park was certainly not me!

Eric Waters

With reference to the appalling error and misjudgement of character regarding Eric's skirting round Hornbeam in a shark like manner, the reporting team admit they were completely wrong in their assumptions that Eric would skirt anywhere, but in our defence think he must have a double, just as Terry Smith has. CG





Medium Exercise

There's always one, isn't there? Some brave/intrepid/unaware/foolhardy/brain-dead person who wants to ride his or her (usually his...) bike on roads that are so icy and dangerous that it's hard to find enough adjectives to describe the conditions. Today there was indeed one, but I won't name names.

So instead, about 14 turned up at Hornbeam with walking boots, some had poles, all were dressed appropriately for cold weather. Ian (joint medium ride leader) turned up in his car just as we were setting off. Caroline had a route in mind involving Rossett, across the fields to Crag Lane and Harlow Carr, up to Cornwall Road, through the Valley Gardens with some prospect of coffee somewhere in town. We all squeezed in to Eton's Café on Cold Bath Road, just about filling it. Service was on the leisurely side, but the tea and coffee and food were good. Team photo outside the café by the sit-up-and-beg bike, and then some headed back to Hornbeam, others directly home. About 6 miles from Hornbeam? CPS

Long Ride

Well it did start cold and it was obvious that the only safe cycling today would have been on salted main roads or in the gym ! At Hornbeam three cyclists met. Phil (sensibly on a mountain bike) , myself and Rob from Lincolnshire in town at a conference. We had all done our risk assessments and independently decided stick to main roads. A decision was made to head to Masham and Phil intending to loop back to Harrogate on his slower but more sensible stead. Roads were pretty good and clear of most traffic. We sped up to Ripon and then via West Tanfield to Masham. Just before West Tanfield we experienced a brief snow storm, but continued for a well earned cafe stop in the market square. The return was the same route, but we opted for the greenway at Ripley for a change from the now busier roads. Rob claims it was quite pleasant once out and claims to have seen his shadow a couple of times ! Mr Garmin says 47 Miles, 4 hours total time, Min 26.6F and surprisingly 2000 ft of climbing . Hoping for an improvement in the weather. Martin



Another Ride

This was a short ride; not **the short ride**. It deserves a short report. We had a good time and a few laughs. Went to Boroughbridge and back, having sampled Sonia's charms. Norman, Terry, Dave W, thanks. Dave S.

