

FIVE GO TO HIGH STREET



In November 2004 a group of five intrepid Wheelers met on th' internet chat room and decided to do some serious Mountain Biking in the Lake District. So, with Richard Holmes Andy Bray, Scott Henderson, Neil Stirzaker and my-self we all decided we where "Up for it"

We agreed a time to meet of 07 30hrs at the Kendal turnoff on the M6, (the last time I got up so early was for the Vets 100 mile TT way back in June) Rick had decided a route from Hartsop over the Knoll to High Street which is a Roman Road believe it or not, to Pooley Bridge back along the southern edge of Ullswater to Patterdale and back to Hartsop, all done legally on Bridle Ways.

Anyway, after driving over Kirkstone Pass in thick fog and seeing a sign "Beware Cyclist" I thought that Rick our leader for the day had really excelled him self, only to realize it was probably left there after the Fred Whitton Challenge ride. We rallied again at Hartsop and prepared our MTB's after Neil had mended a puncture and Scott had decided his borrowed shoes from Neil needed cobbling.

We set off from an empty car park bar one car at about 0900hrs and rode up the track to Hayeswater passing the one and only walker who's car was probably in the carpark. No sooner had we got going when Andy tried to dismount and ended up in the ditch, his one and only dive of the day and the first of many photo's by Rick. A pattern had now emerged as we continued it was Andy, Rick, Scott and Neil and my-self taking up the rear.

By the time we reached Hayeswater we had caught the walker and he had caught us several times, we then set off to climb The Knott (735 metres above sea level) Andy showed us how to do it with Bike across the shoulder, half way up The Knott we stopped for a breather and more photo's of Neil taking up the rear. It was warm and humid climbing with bikes and we could see Hartsop and the cars in the valley

below as the sun was breaking thru' the mist. Once on High Street which is shown as a Roman Road on the OS map but is far from it, the Bridleway became rideable but very boggy in places, we regrouped several times and met at the Trig point on Whether Hill for our drink and snap, up until then we had seen no one, but suddenly two walkers and dogs appeared out of the mist.

Rick kept us informed with info from his GPS, height above sea level, time spent riding, time spent walking, total distance and the biggest statistic of all time spent NOT MOVING. Andy assured us it was "all rideable" and this became the catchphrase of the day, down hill from now on so we followed his lead, both Scott and myself had been "Apex over Base" After a good down hill section of Barton Fell, Pooley Bridge bathed in sunshine rose out of the mist, a sharp left along the banks with Ullswater on our right and Raven Crag on our left on what was the muddiest track so far, not helped by a JCB digger having churned it up several days before.

Again we regrouped and stopped for another snack at Howtown and washed our bikes in the river.

The last leg from Howtown to Patterdale was probably the most awkward, on and off the bik every 20 yards, again Andy assured us it was all rideable, we regrouped again and this was the first time I had seen Andy and Rick for about an hour or so, we came on to the proper road at Deepdale Bridge and rode the final mile back to Hartsop to wash our bikes and get changed at about 1500 hours.

In total we'd covered about 19 miles off road and about 1 mile on tarmac, as for my-self very muddy and aching all over.

Geoff D.



Christmas Party Friday Night December 17th 2004

It was gratifying for the organiser Gillian, and the many helpers who assisted her to put on the truly sumptuous feast that everyone enjoyed, to see so many members, with their family and friends, attending. The number of raffle prizes donated by club members was quite amazing and helped to cover all the expenses of the evening. It is always nice to see the children at these events and on this particular occasion they really seemed to enjoy themselves – young Jack Paynter, in particular, looked quite festive in his Father Christmas outfit! It is events like these that make our cycling clubs "something special".