

The Aram Grange Endurance and Pleasure Ride

The Aram Grange ride took place yesterday in glorious weather. Not too hot, a cooling breeze, and the early morning drizzle turning into beautiful sunshine.

Just over 60 competitors completed the course, most of which had been mown to create beautiful going by the local farmers. The venue was at Aram Grange where yet again the Blair family was extremely hospitable, moving cattle to allow us room to park and leaving all their gates open to allow us free access to the rest of the course. Very many thanks to John and Joan.

From Aram Grange the course went cross country to Lingham Lane, through Studforth to Cundall and then round Tim Swiers's (all grass again very neatly mowed) and Frank Ward's margins back to Dishforth. Having gone under the A168 underpass, the riders then followed the bridle path to Queen Mary's school where they were greeted by the tents and flags being erected for the Deer Shed Festival which will be on next weekend. Passing in front of the school they moved onto 'Potter Land' where yet again they found newly mown paths, down to Baldersby St James, across to Rainton where they all enjoyed the A1 loop, back to Rainton and onto James Archers bridle track (again beautifully cut for us) and then back to the underpass to Lingham Lane and then back to Aram Grange. A whole trip of 33km and a big well done to all those who completed it.

Very many thanks must go to all the farmers who allowed us access to their land. Without your generosity this ride would not be possible.

We had lots of other helpers on the day, Fi and Sophie Webber who were secretary and steward for the day, Nikki Warne and family who ran the wonderful BBQ at the end of the ride, Ian Savage who acted as

starter and timekeeper and the biggest thanks must go to Linda and Caitlin Birkitt who helped me set up and take down all the markers and signs.

It was great to see several Pony Club kids go round all enjoying themselves, with big smiles on their faces. Again many thanks to Jenny Fall and Penny Best who supervised them.

Already looking forward to next year's ride. Probably the same weekend.

Robert