

Sunday, September 12, 2010

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 229

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Saturday Ride Report. Celebration Ride. Launch of Morecambe to Bridlington 'Way of the Roses' and National Cycle Network 15th Anniversary. Today's ride marked the end of years of planning of a new coast to coast ride taking in Morecambe, the river Lune in Lancaster, The Bowland Fells, then the spectacular Yorkshire Dales, Vale of York, the Wolds and finishing in Bridlington. Today also marks the 15th anniversary of the National Cycle Network which has so far built 12,500 miles of routes. Harrogate will really be a part of this when our own Bilton-Ripley route is completed providing us and families a safe route out of Harrogate to the Dales. Wheel Easy members and local Sustrans Rangers have provided great support for the Way of the Roses with exploratory rides, advice, accommodation and great café stops! We even have an official acknowledgement in the map! The ride today was part of a project to have the whole of the ride ridden on one day with presentations to many of the partners who have supported the route. Our first task was to meet Roy Philips, Operations Manager, at Fountains Abbey Visitor Centre as the National Trust have kindly allowed the official route to go through the stunning Deer Park at Studley Royal. Thirty one riders left Hornbeam, including a group of riders from Thorp Arch and another from Wetherby. We split the riders into four groups, had our first official photograph at Spruisty Bridge (Knox), introduced cyclists to the delights of the Hartwith Toll Bridge, enjoyed the fabulous views from Brimham, dodged the worst of the showers, finishing our ride in glorious sunshine. At the visitor centre we were treated to coffee, had another photograph when presenting the excellent Sustrans Way of the Roses map to Roy Phillips. On to Spa Gardens where we were met by The Mayor of the City of Ripon and County Councillor Bernard Bateman. Here we acknowledged the support given locally by Nidderdale AONB, Greater Ripon Improvement Partnership, Harrogate Borough Council and North Yorkshire County Council. Caroline Bentham owner of the Sun Parlour Café where we had our presentation also joined in the fun presenting us all with gingerbread men with a note that this was to help us on our way. It was quite thrilling to see all the new Way of The Roses signs that had been put up this week which signed us from Brimham all the way to Great Ouseburn where we all finished our ride and made our way home. Thanks to everyone who supported the ride. This new coast to coast ride is a great challenge, a

wonderful ride whether in small bits or the whole. Do try it. I have some maps for sale at £s;6.00, normally £s;6.95. I have a few left. Gia

To view 'Way of the Roses' photos [click here](#)

**Short Ride Report**  
Lovely sunny day to welcome two new riders, John and Peter, to the short ride and to Steve and Kate on their classic Claud Butler tandem. The sunshine and clear skies meant that we had to take advantage of the local views so we cycled up to Little Alms Cliff, Norwood and Penny Pot Lane. We stopped to admire the wind turbines, Peter giving us more info as he had been on a tour up the inside of one. From there with the sun on our faces and the wind on our backs we sped back to Harrogate for excellent coffee and snacks at The Catwalk Café. Here we met a lady nearly 80 (no Lycra) with her classic road bike who trundles round Harrogate as often as she can. Look forward to welcoming our new riders again, including Kate, tandem or solo! 15 miles as per instructions!  
Gia

Click on slide show for all today's photos

**Medium Ride Report**  
Eleven set off and six came back!  
Through the Fulwths and Mallinsons to Whinney lane and en route to Beckwithshaw when chain trouble claimed our first victim so we were one down as she manfully(or should that be WOMANfully) decided to return home. Anyway it was up to Norwood Edge against the wind and slope for a brief breather before swooping down to the Sun Inn. Progressing to the western end of Penny Pot Lane it became apparent that something called F1 was nagging Mark and Trevor. They left us. So we were now eight intrepid souls taking our lives in our hands to cross the A59 towards Menwith. Not too many yards on and Linda (of Peter and Linda) said she would remove her jacket. That was the last we saw of her and Terry. Now we were six as we passed the main gate of the spybase and sped downhill towards Clapham Green followed by another great downward slope before a slightly tougher ascent and final descent into Hampsthwaite. There had been no murmurings about coffee until the dear leader mentioned same was to be had at Ripley where he hoped to find the missing duo. Alas and alack he was on his own as the remaining five opted for home. To cut a short story shorter there they were devouring coffee and scones and quite unperturbed about having lost the main group. Hopefully Peter did not have to wait too long on the doorstep as Linda had the keys. Despite the apparent mayhem it was a decent if sporadic ride on a decent morning and I reckon something in the order of 25 miles. Crawford

**Medium Plus Ride Report**  
Over twenty cyclists opted for the 35 mile medium plus ride to Pateley Bridge via Beckwithshaw, Penny Pot, Hampsthwaite, Birstwith, Darley York's Folly and returning via Brimham Rocks, Warsill, Ripley Knox.  
Glyn very kindly offered to lead the group who wanted to cycle at a faster pace leaving eleven to spend the morning cycling at a more leisurely pace. It was a great ride with some good climbs which certainly tested the majority of us. We cycled at an average speed of 11.7 miles per hour which is excellent considering the terrain. It would have been less if it had not been for Julie, Bill, Paul P and Richard who kept the pace going. The views at the top of the climbs, on such a clear day, were stunning and certainly worth the effort. Richard and Bill provided all the local history information throughout the morning. I now know all about York's Folly and I would prefer to cycle up that hill than down it! Paul

On a lovely sunny morning I set off from Leeds looking forward to going on the medium plus ride. The ride across was most enjoyable and I was pleased to arrive at Hornbeam in a quicker than

usual time. Feeling good and 'on form' I volunteered to lead the faster paced ride. Ten riders set off at a quick pace and soon reached Beckwithshaw. Due to illness one of our riders (sorry, but I've forgotten your name) left here and it was down to nine. It was here that the term 'leading from the back' came to the fore! I think that the ride over had taken too much out of my legs and I was beginning to waver. My thanks here, go to John, who kindly led us to Pateley Bridge and the comforts of the tasty offerings at Wilding's Tea Rooms (we lost another rider along the way who decided to do his own thing - sorry but another name I've forgotten - legs and memory going by now)! . It was here that John left us for a prior appointment and it was back to me to lead my troops home. Fully refreshed and raring to go, the 'magnificent seven' made their way on to Glasshouses and up (and up - and up) and around Brimham Rocks. Leading once again from the rear I managed to lose Andy and Paul (memory for names returning now!) who sped merrily on their way to Brimham never to be seen again; sadly missing the turn off to Warsill and the wonderful 3 mile down hill stretch. The not so famous Five, with the wind behind us now, sped merrily on our way through Ripley, Killinghall and finally Knox where we all went our separate ways, with me looking forward to the ride back to Leeds! My thanks go to everybody who kindly waited for me along the way and helped to make it an enjoyable ride. With the benefit of good company, outstanding scenery and weather along the way no ride can be less than enjoyable-mileage 7 x 35miles + 1 x 61 miles + 2 unknown. Glyn

Long Ride Report  
 It was a case of me leading from the back today as just 6 people set off on the long ride to Skipton. Heading out via Fewston and Timble two riders returned home from Askwith leaving just Phil, Geoff, Alec & myself to complete the full ride. From Askwith we followed back road to Ilkley and then on to Bolton Abbey, Embsay and Skipton for a cafe stop. While there we managed to spot a few of the sheep sculptures all part of the Skipton Festival (see photo). Our return route included a couple of serious climbs which all managed without difficulties before enjoying the long downhill run from Greenhow to Hampsthwaite and then back to Harrogate. A great ride with some wonderful scenery - approximately 62 miles. Jill

Off Road Ride Report  
 Sadly there were only 4 of us to enjoy the glorious off-road ride. After the fast descent into Crimple Valley, we crossed the River Crimple on the new wooden bridge, which has reopened this section of bridle path after at least 3 years following the destruction of the previous bridge in a flood. This enables us to cycle off-road all the way from Hornbeam Park to the Southern Bypass, a distance of 5 miles. What a delight! As we went along the ridge at Barrowby, we enjoyed the wonderful long distance views up Wharfedale to our right and across the Vale of York to the White Horse of Kilburn on our left. Our route took us through Harewood Park, and along the bridle paths of the Leeds Country Way from Wike to East Keswick. on this section Darren's chain snapped, but with the aid of Steve's chain rivet tool, we were able to remove 2 links from the chain and reconnect it all within 5 minutes. After a short section on-road through East Keswick village we crossed Harewood Avenue and took the steep bridle path down to cross the River Wharfe on the metal footbridge, and climbed up to Wood Hall. Steve then took the short cute back home via Kirkby Overblow, whilst Dave, Darren and Eric continued on to Linton and Wetherby where we had a cafe stop in the Shambles. We then returned home via the Railway Path to Spofforth. For the captain's log: 3 of us completed 31 miles, plus 1 of 25 miles, total 118 miles. Eric

2010 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 1468 YTD 111007

