

Sunday, November 7, 2010

Wheel Easy Ride Report 237



Short Ride Report

Today's ride was a rerun of the same route I used last time I led the Short Ride (15 August), which holds the infamous record of the highest body count of any Wheel Easy ride! Despite my warnings of the previous mishaps, 11 brave souls volunteered to join me, and what a delight it turned out to be. The weather was as magnificent as Autumn weather can possibly be - deep blue skies, dazzling low sunshine, crisp fresh air - just perfect cycling weather. We had two new members join us today on their first ride: welcome to Liz and Jo! To minimise traffic problems we split into 2 groups on the busier sections of the route - including the first section to Knaresborough Low Bridge, where we met Norman, Terry and Dave W hoping to meet up with a medium ride. Given the news that the medium ride had gone in a different direction they set off ahead of us along Abbey Road and were never seen again! The Bermuda triangle of Spofforth caused us problems as our two groups managed to find three different routes through the village. Well, two groups managed to find their way through the village, and the third managed to get lost! After a search and rescue mission, we all reassembled before the rescue helicopters had been called. We then invaded the beautiful Millennium Gardens in Spofforth for our photoshoot, with the ornamental grasses looking majestic in the sunshine. We then continued to Follifoot, across the bypass at Rudding Park, and then to the Showground, where most of us spent a very enjoyable hour over coffee in Fodders. We arrived back at Hornbeam Park shortly after 12.30, having completed 15 glorious miles, in complete safety with all limbs and bicycles returned in tact. Phew - that was a relief!!! Note for the Captains Log. 12 riders completed 15 miles today: 180 miles total. Eric

Click on slide show for all today's photos

Medium Ride Report

You don't get many warm, sunny, windless days in November so there was a very respectable turnout today, particularly of Medium riders. We divided ourselves up in to the usual medium,

slow-medium, not-so-slow medium, bit- faster-than medium and quite-fast-medium groups and set off at ten-second intervals. All these reports are going to sound a bit the same but we were the allegedly slow group and our main challenge was not to get to the New Inn at Eccup too early because we had rung them up the day before and knew that they didn't usually open until 12.00 noon. We 12 therefore took quite a leisurely pace via Burn Bridge, Kirkby Overblow, Sicklinghall and by the time we turned off towards Linton we had lost two Pauls, one who bridged the gap to the group ahead and one who was heading back via Wetherby. At Collingham we worked our way up to the ridge overlooking the Wharfe Valley and were rewarded with fabulous clear views as we coasted along to East Rigton and Bardsey. We by-passed East Keswick then whisked up to Slaid Hill, round the back of Leeds Grammar School and across to Eccup. At the New Inn we waved goodbye to Dennis, Trevor and John who managed to resist the siren call of bacon sandwiches whilst we slunk in to the hostelry to find the other groups sitting behind an array of hot baguettes. Malcolm was spotted with a delicious looking half of bitter so I thought it would be all right to have one too. Keith brought me a large orange juice, "for health and safety reasons". Hurrumph! Although it was only half past one, the sun already felt as if it was thinking about setting and the temperature had definitely sunk but it remained a beautiful, golden afternoon and, reduced to 7, we made our way happily back via Weardley, Kirkby Overblow and Rudding Park. Home in time for Tea after 35 fun-filled miles. Helen & Keith

Medium Ride Touring Pace Report
 Keith and Helen's ride to Eccup gathered a healthy number of takers so Glynn offered to lead the fast boys (and one girl), Steve B offered to be his scribe, Gia, Paul T and Sue took the touring pace while Keith and Helen led another group behind them. It was a glorious day, fantastic views, clear skies, bright sunshine. We flew down to Linton, concerned that we might end up at The New Inn beyond Eccup too early but our pace slowed as we wandered along the quiet lanes as Keith had recommended to avoid the busy road from Collingham to East Keswick. We enjoyed seeing the wind turbines from such a distance and no traffic on Compton Lane. We stopped at the reservoir to savour the views there and made it to The New Inn at twelve. The fast group had arrived earlier and the owners had the good sense to open up for them early which was much appreciated. Steve P decided before we left the pub to check his front wheel to discover that it wasn't fixed in properly, very timely as we were about to descend quite a steep hill at some speed! Home via Kirkby Overblow. Great ride and a nice change to "go south" for a change. 11 riders 32 miles. Gia

Medium Plus Ride Report
 We press ganged Glyn into the ride leader role and promptly lost him at the turn out of the car park! The group was restored to nine again by the time we got to Burn Bridge. Taking a slight detour (Wetherby is nice this time of year) we whizzed through to Eccup with a pause for photos and other necessities. Nick and one more left us at the Sun Inn. Due to the extra hills Glyn forced upon us we weren't far ahead of the next group. Still we managed to order food and drink before being harassed by a hawker selling calendars. Glyn, Alison and me got hot sandwiches while Charles merely got hot sitting next to the open fire. We're sure that his jersey was melting on his back.

Will joined us for the trip back which passed uneventfully enough, led by Dennis. Glyn left us at Weardley. Dennis left us at Walton Park. Dave, Will and Darren home via Harrogate. John, Alison and me back to Knaresborough. 43 miles for the crag rats x 3. Say 33 x 6 for Harrogate. Not sure about Glyn's mileage. Great ride in decent weather and good company. Steve B.

Long Ride Report
 8 riders opted for the long ride to Castle Howard but I can't work out why there weren't oodles more folk wanting to make the most of a fantastic autumn day. Conditions were perfect for cycling; bright sunshine, dry roads and no wind made even the ride to Easingwold via Aldwark a real

pleasure. After climbing from Brandsby up to the Wolds ridge we were rewarded with beautiful views on all sides. The planned lunch stop was at either the Lavender farm or the café in Terrington but sadly both of these were closed. Fortunately the landlord of the local pub realised it would be advantageous to abandon his policy of only serving Sunday lunch and agreed to provide sandwiches and tea. We continued to Castle Howard, Sheriff Hutton, Huby and back over Aldwark Bridge again. Thanks to all, hope you enjoyed it as much as I did. We all covered 70 miles and were back in Harrogate for 4.00pm (I almost wrote home for 4.00pm but amazingly we had riders from Wakefield and Skipton). Phil

2010	Wheel	Easy	Miles	(approx)	Today	1839	YTD	133318
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