



Short Ride Report

Six members joined me on today's short ride: Justin, Dennis, Lynda, Caroline, Sally and Steve. Instead of taking the direct route to Calcutt via 'The Three Hookstones' (Road, Drive and Chase), we diverted right to take the cycle paths through the Great Yorkshire Showground, past Fodders and the Tip, emerging onto Hookstone Chase near Morrisons. We continued on to Low Bridge, Knaresborough, where we met Dave W and Norman O waiting to hitch a ride with any group going through Knaresborough - with the glorious exception of our Short Ride as their sights were set on further galaxies than ours. They were last seen setting off in the direction of Ripon! We continued along Abbey Road and Wetherby Road as far as Little Ribston, where we turned right for Spofforth and Follifoot. After Rudding Park, Dennis left us in a hurry to get home to a belated family Christmas dinner. Hurry? He overtook me on the steep climb up Rudding Lane from the narrow bridge. Wow - there's a man in a real hurry! Justin also had to speed on as he had a date with a 15 year old girl at the cinema at 11.40am. I believed his explanation that she was his daughter! The remaining five continued for coffee and toasted tea cakes - and a warm as we were freezing - at Fodders, before the return to Hornbeam Park.

For the Captain's Log, 7 of us completed the 15 mile ride: 105 miles total. Another 2 x 30 could be added for Norman and Dave W's Gemini mission to orbit Ripon (assuming there is no separate report from them). Eric

Click on slide show for all today's photos

Medium Ride Report

Nine of us set out from Hornbeam on a cold damp morning to ride to Beningbrough Hall for our morning coffee. Our route was via Knaresborough, Ferrensby, Ouseburn, Aldwark Bridge where the ticket collector waved us past a long line of cars (many of the same make, presumably going to a meeting). We crossed the bridge and made our way to Beningbrough farm shop only to find it overrun with Wheel Easy members doing the medium touring ride in the opposite direction! Eventually most of us were seated for a welcome rest, a warm up, a snack and hot drink after covering some 23 miles. The medium touring group left and we decided to brave the cold again and set off towards home via the bridge, Whixley, Cattal, Cowthorpe, Little Ribston (when Jean, Sue T and Monica left to go via Knaresborough), Spofforth and Follifoot. I do distinctly remember on 2 occasions the sun trying to get out - but no such luck! At Follifoot we all went our own ways home. Despite the cold and damp everyone enjoyed the ride. (Log mileage - $9 \times 46 = 414$ miles). Peter and Linda

Medium Ride Touring Pace Report

Sat here listening to the podcast of Desert Island Discs with Jon Snow (who is the CTC President so listening to him while typing a ride report seems appropriate), I can't reconcile the warm waters lapping on the shore of the Desert Island with the bitter Yorkshire Day we just cycled through. But it didn't deter 16 riders on our ride plus about another 20 on the medium ride and the fast medium ride, all of whom made it to Beningbrough Farm Shop.

Our route took us south through the Showground (Jon Snow has just played Eric Clapton and Layla - I am losing the plot fast!) and on to Follifoot, Spofforth, Little Ribston, Cattal, Whixley, Thorpe Underwood, over Aldwark Bridge and on to the Farm Shop for coffee and scones. With all the groups present it was like the Wheel Easy Big Day Out and the owners coped admirably.

Malcolm declined to leave the warm café with us, but subsequently did some extra miles to Boroughbridge, so there were 16 of us on the return over Aldwark Bridge. The toll collector asked if it was any warmer at Whitby so obviously he has been hearing rumours about the long ride. We then tramped out the return at a good pace through Gt. Ouseburn, Marton, Arkendale, Ferrensby and Lingerfield, before climbing the hill up from Knaresborough and home. Martin W.

PS Jon Snow has just said how much he finds cycling every day such a liberating and pleasurable experience - and so say all of us!! $17 \times 47 = 799$ miles

Medium Plus Ride Report

On this lovely crisp cold January Sunday, we all gathered at Hornbeam for today's ride to Beningbrough hall. Eight of us set off the right way round to Knaresborough, Farnham and Arkendale. Today Alison was not with us and she was missed by us all. We arrived at Home Farm with iceberg feet at 10.50 to have hot teas and coffee with flapjacks and caramel slices. Leaving the farm we crossed Aldwark Bridge to Whixley, Cattal, Cowthorpe, Spofforth and home. A grand total of $8 \times 45 = 360$ cold miles. It was an enjoyable ride for all. Unfortunately in the final stages of the ride my hip started to hurt due to my old age! Don't be fooled by my youthful good looks! Darren

Long Ride Report

Four of us (me, Jill, John, and Peter) set out from Hornbeam with Bedale as a target. I had a vague recollection of having been to Bedale at some point in the past two years but didn't want to tell Jill that I had no idea where we were going. But you know me, give me enough time and I'll ride anywhere you want to go! Somewhere on the way to Old Scriven we picked up a fifth rider (Dave) who is preparing for a ride across the US in April (I hate him because I want to do that ride. I even want to do the route he plans on using.) The weather was chilly and damp, perfect for a Sunday ride.

Everything was fine but then Jill, who was unwell, dropped out shortly after we picked up David. Then we proceeded through Bishop Monkton and as we entered Ripon and made a right turn to head for Wath and Hewick, Peter made a left, waved goodbye, and headed into Ripon. We had dwindled to three. I was beginning to wonder, especially because we were going into virgin territory for me. I don't think that I have ever been to Kirklington or Burneston before. I became a little reassured when we got to Bedale because it looked vaguely familiar. At about this point, I got a flat. Now that I have reminded myself, I better fix the punctured inner tube before I ride again next Sunday.

The three hardy remnants then pedalled to Thorpe Perrow for tea. Now I was in familiar territory, or so I thought. The last time we did a ride to Thorpe Perrow we got to watch something that looked like a cross between country line dancing and a Scottish reel. No entertainment this time but they had soap and hot water to get the road grime from the flat tyre off our hands. From there we went to Well (another place that I didn't recognize) and suddenly, we were in West Tanfield. I know West Tanfield but I'll be darned if I can figure out how we got there this time. I think that every other time that I have been to West Tanfield, I was coming from Masham. All I can say is that Bedale and Thorpe Perrow are obviously not where I thought they were. That's okay though, I had a great time getting to them. From there it was back to Ripon, Bishop Monkton, Knaresborough, and Harrogate on familiar roads. We lost Dave between Ripon and Knaresborough and then John turned off in Starbeck. I got home around 3:45 and found that I covered 64 miles. That is about all there is to say about it except that the roads were messy, the ride was good, and the company was great. Cheers. Charles

Off Road Ride Report

On the first Wheel Easy off road ride of 2011, three of us took on the Sunday rough stuff challenge. From Hornbeam we fought our way through town to Kings Road and down through the park where Coppice Swimming Pool used to be towards the Hydro. We span through Jennyfields then crossed the Skipton Road to enter a nice bit of off road which cut through to Knox ford. Up the hill we went and left at Knox timber mill. The next section took us past Bilton allotments where we began to smell the aroma of the sewerage works as we blasted on to Nidd Gorge. We entered a nice bit of single track and some boardwalk, then up and out and past the Gardeners Arms to the Beryl Burton Way, arriving at Knaresborough (coffee stop at Waterside café).

We set off for the second half down Abbey Road, then up into the Lido caravan park and through the woods. After crossing the A658 (with care), Phil suggested we take the back road to Follifoot, and cross under the A658 through the bridleway underpass where we suffered an unfortunate inner-tube fatality. Then we were on the Pannal road, through Pannal woods over the railway line and up the final climb to Hornbeam Park. An amazing ride and a fantastic time. 3x20=60 off road miles. Ben

2011 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 2060 YTD 11573



