



Martin welcomed the members and informed everyone that medium rides would now be restricted to 30 miles flat, [less when hilly] and the short ride would continue to be 15 miles or less. Also the number of leaders was to be increased to ensure smaller groups.

Everyone would like to thank Martin for all his work in reviewing the Ride Calendar ensuring there are no duplications, they are more accurate and the routes head out of Hornbeam in different directions and use different cafes.

#### Short Ride Report

Today's short ride only attracted four riders. Barbara, Caroline, Peter & a subdued Darren recovering from his accident. We took a route out to Arkendale via Abbey Road, Goldsborough & Flaxby. Returning via Ferrensby, Lingerfield and Knaresborough. Cycling at a nice leisurely pace without incident. Therefore short ride, short report. Estimated mileage 5x15 miles. (No one with a working cycle computer) Dennis B

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#### Medium Ride Report

Nine riders left from Hornbeam in the rain to seek out signs of spring! The ride took in a tour of the villages - Burnbridge, Kirkby Overblow, Sicklinghall, Wetherby, Kirk and North Deighton. Spofforth, Follyfoot and back home to Harrogate via Rudding Park. We saw the first lambs frolicking - well,

standing still, but imagine the scene! We saw snowdrops a plenty, and the most wonderful pair of Valentine socks, courtesy of Sue, that have ever graced a bicycle! (Check out photographic evidence). We meandered back to Harrogate and some of us gathered in Fodders to fight for the sofa for coffees and various 'eats'! Bliss! In total, 23 enjoyable and gentle miles. Sarah

#### Medium Ride 'splinter group' Report

Five of us made up a slightly brisker group to complement Sarah's Medium ride and we set off into the morning drizzle and were soon away from the traffic climbing up the back lane to Kirkby Overblow, but were swept up by Paul and his Medium Plus Group heading for the bright lights of North Leeds. And soon after Kirkby Overblow we were passed again by a big group from Otley CC. Yvonne gave chase but our group was hampered by a pathetically slow leader moaning on about his cold. Our new rider, Shaun, was regaled by tales of wonderful views from this lane as we made our way through the mist and gloom. But we were soon to be warmed up in Costa at Wetherby, before heading homeward via the old A1 cycle path, Little, Ribston, Spofforth and Follifoot. A pleasant few miles in slightly better weather than expected. Martin W Mileage 5 x 25=125.

#### Medium Plus Touring Pace Ride Report

Riding to Hornbeam I thought surely no one would want to cycle to Eccup on a wet day! The weather certainly doesn't put off Wheel Easy members as 12 headed towards North Leeds with Dave P as back marker. I was wishing Caroline Graham had been leading the ride as she could have written an amusing account mentioning Steve Price's new cape. Was he dressed up in preparation for a Valentine's Day surprise or a part in 'Last of the Summer Wine'. His dress code brought various comments including; 'Why are you not using hand signals Steve?' 'Steve bellowed lovely coming down that hill'. Caroline would have had a field day with her report!

The route took us to Burn Bridge, over the A61 roundabout, up Walton Head Lane to Kirkby Overblow, Sicklinghall, Linton and Collingham. We cycled in groups along the busy Harewood Rd. before joining the West Yorkshire Cycleway to East Keswick, Bardsey, Wike and Slaid Hill. As the roads were busy we met at various meeting places on route ensuring we were well spread out allowing cars to pass by. Passing behind Leeds Grammar School we were all curious as to why there were so many police and police vehicles outside a large house. I was later told it should have been the ride leader's responsibility to go and ask as it would make my boring ride reports more interesting! We continued over the A61 to Eccup reservoir, Eccup village and refreshments at the Sun Inn, Weardley, After refreshments we crossed over Harewood Bridge and onto Kirkby Overblow It was a great morning's ride with a few good hills on route. We covered 34 miles and it was certainly a change to ride towards Leeds. Paul

#### Medium Plus Ride Report

A ride that goes against all Wheel Easy and CTC (cafe to cafe) regulations: no coffee stop en route!! But what else is it about this ride that attracts the gremlins? Last year leading my first ride with megalomania redolent of the Grand old Duke of York I sent the peloton half way up a hill and brought it back down again before sending them back up again. This year at exactly the same point outside, East Keswick we stopped to remember last year's faux pas (ouch guys!) and to debate Glyn's proposal to detour through a local ford (as if we weren't wet enough). But setting off, Up goes a shout, a bike crashes out, Out from the ranks so blue (and florescent yellow), Wounded and dying lay Glyn's Shimano derailleur . An half hour trying to resuscitate the victim failed. Mark - a delicate chap - felt physically sick at the sight and retired to the bus stop to recover, his head bowed over his new helmet. Both Steve and Deb offered to cycle back to Harrogate to collect cars and return to recover Glyn . But Glyn, stiffed lipped and steely eyed demurred and volunteered to set off to walk for home 5 miles away. We left him trudging his weary way (will we ever see his ilk again?) The rest of the ride was an up and down affair (mostly up it seemed!) The wet roads and puddles meant we were all soaked through (although a few more rear mudguards fitted may help keep me drier next time!) But home for a bedraggled 5 finishers measuring 34 miles each and Glyn 13 (+ 5 on foot). William

#### Long Ride Report

Six brave souls set off for Grassington with high hopes and everything was going according to plan despite the persistent rain. At Greenhow, things took a turn for the worse as the mist descended and

the group had to strategically organise itself so we had plenty of rear lights at the back of the pack. The first modification to the route was to head to Burnsall rather than push on to Grassington. Burnsall café stop gave a chance to refuel and dry out and then it was onward. Again, a route modification was voted on and at Barden Bridge, we proceeded to join the main road to Bolton Abbey. Then disaster struck. Rogers chain decided to come adrift. Fortunately, with the right equipment and a spare link, the repair was completed by which time the leading three were over the hill and far away, this left three riders (Peter, Peter and Roger) to continue at their own pace. At Otley Roger left the three and headed off to Leeds leaving the two Peters and then at Stainburn the other Peter headed off leaving me the rider leader to complete the return journey to Harrogate. Estimated mileage 50 miles x 6 riders Peter J

2011 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 1223 YTD 17040

