



#### Short Ride Report

Three takers for the short ride this week. We managed a gentle jaunt around the surrounding villages of Farnham, Lingerfield, and Scriven. Rain threatened but stayed away long enough to complete the ride, grab a break at the ever welcoming Waterside Cafe, in Knaresborough before yet again paying homage to Beryl Burton on our journey home. Posed for a 'hand held' photo - a first for the club, possibly? Pleased to say that J's saddle is now suitably adjusted! Phew! 3 x 17 miles clocked up. Sarah E.

[Click on slide show for all today's photos](#)

#### Medium Ride Report.

Eleven club members and two guest riders opted for the medium ride on a drizzly and windy morning. Oops the magic 13. However, before we had even climbed the ramp out of Hornbeam, Canadian Malc declared his intention of joining us thereby smashing all superstitious thoughts. Upwards to Beckwithshaw, to Norwood Lane against a strong headwind to Stainburn Forest where a minor revolution took place. Five riders led by revolutionary Canadian Malc decided that a faster pace was more appropriate for them.

The track through the forest car park had been resurfaced eliminating all the nasty pot holes but in places hadn't fully bedded down making some sections decidedly lumpy. We continued along the gated road and observed the magnificent views through a squall, eventually reaching Leathley village. From here it was onwards and upwards to Stainburn where the ride leader turned left instead of right (yes my dear you were right - full public apology grrrr.) This error, which caused a detour of all of one mile

led us fortuitously to the Honey Pot farm/café where our two guest riders decided that they were in need of refreshment and left us to café. As they were armed with an all singing, all dancing state of the art cycling SATNAV I was confident that they would be safe.

We continued around the foot of Almscliffe Crag to North Rigton and survived the hideous, wind assisted climb to Brackenthwaite Lane. Here Dennis, recognising that phone reception would be good, placed his lunch order and along with Gordon was given permission to form the advance party home. The remaining five of us continued at a sedate pace towards Burn Bridge but just before we got there we were rewarded by the magnificent sight of a deer racing across the field to our left, leaping across a stone wall onto the road just marginally in front of Sue and Caroline before it finally leapt over the wall on the opposite side of the road and disappeared into a wheat field. Then 'twas home.

If all reached Harrogate the captain's log should record 14 x 22miles and 1,000,000 feet of climbing!  
Max

#### Medium Mutinous Fractionally Faster Ride Report

Much the same as Max's, but slightly ahead except when we stopped to discuss directions and were passed by Caroline and co. enjoying a downhill zoom. Later we went the right way, unlike Max, and so missed the chance of Honey Pot farm. Guilty of mutiny were Howard and new Richard, for both of whom much of this was virgin territory, Chris M, WE! veteran Sur John and yours truly. Canadian (?)  
Malc

#### Medium Plus "Brisk, but not too Quick" Ride Report

Having initially believed I was going to be swamped by 20 or 30 riders I realised that more than half were the quick and keen lot - so William and co went on their way in a cloud of spray while the remaining 7 of us decided to plod steadily through the drizzle and headed out to Hampsthwaite and Birstwith. The climb up Stripe Lane was helped by a useful tail wind and the low cloud and drizzle continued all the way up to Brimham Rocks.

At Brimham crossroads I helped a small group of "Way of the Roses" riders with their route. It is great to see so many people enjoying this route, and we came across more later on in Ripon. This is certainly putting North Yorkshire/Fountains/Ripon on the map and no doubt really boosting the tourist trade. So onwards down to Sawley, through the Deer Park and Studley Roger, and we were soon at Spa Gardens Cafe. The wizzy group arrived about the same time having diverted along a longer route, and Dave and his "steady away" group took over our places in the café while we set off on a longer route than planned as the sun was coming out at last!

We returned home via Skelton-on-Ure, Boroughbridge, Marton cum Grafton and Farnham. Well done to Richard on his first outing with us. We showed him some new roads and he showed us how to climb hills.

46 miles by 7 riders in delightful North Yorkshire. Martin W

#### Medium Plus Slowish Touring Pace Ride Report

It was a bit of a grey Sunday Morning at Hookstone Car Park, though the forecast was for brighter weather later in the day. There were plenty of takers for the Medium Plus ride, so it was decided to split into three groups.

A Wheel Easy speedy touring pace group, I don't know who led but it was probably the one who survived the pace. A group led by Martin at a "briskish" touring pace, and Dave P's "slowish" touring pace. This was the correct thing to do, so as to prevent "cafe shock" at the Spa Gardens Cafe, but then Caroline is always on the ball, so "cafe shock" here is unlikely if a large group arrives all at once. Dave P's team was Bridget, Dave W, Debbie, Gia, Julie, Monica, Neil, Paul, Sally, Steve and Terry, so away we went through Harrogate under a grey sky and an inconsiderate wind, which became more inconsiderate as we gained height.

After Knox it was through Birstwith to take the toll bridge to Hartwith Moor and the accompanying climb. Near Brimham Rocks Paul, a new rider with us (nice to have you along Paul) queried the ride distance. The calendar stated approx 45miles. There was perhaps an element of doubt in Paul's mind, should he have been on the Medium only ride? This was put down to a caffeine deficit because after the cafe stop he was one of the first into Harrogate.

Soon it was the long swoop down towards Ripon on the B6265 with some wind assist, unfortunately

the stunning views were clouded over. On the way to Sawley Julie went ahead but was found waiting by the turn off to Low Gate, Ah I see you know the route was the question ?, no said Julie but it looked like a road Wheel Easy would take. Yes it is a single track road, which last week was quite clear, but today was quite "clarty", especially near the steep climb which caused frantic change downs to "granny gears". This caused some minor problems but nothing serious, so abject apologies from Dave P. Soon we were at the Sun Parlour Cafe (still no sun) but Paul got his caffeine. Martin's "briskish" group were just finishing before leaving to take a modified return route. Dave W led us out of the Spa Gardens to take a delightful little detour through Ripon over the wooden bridge next to the Skell ford then crossing the canal by the other wooden bridge to Littlethorpe.

By now the sun was out but the wind again seemed a little fickle, the usual banana break was taken on the hill near near Burton Leonard (not a hill to Terry but to DP it hurt). Coming in to Knaresborough we had our first casualty, Gia was stung. The insect was a considerate little "B" stinging her on her hand, and not down her inner garments, thus there was no need for the group to form a modesty screen while the antihistamine cream was applied.

Then it was on to Harrogate with the sun still shining. It had been a good days cycling, thanks to everybody, particularly Dave Watson for back marking and local knowledge. Total mileage say 40 miles x 12 = 480 miles. (and that's without a calculator). Dave P

#### Medium Plus Faster Ride Report

Nine set off today for a lumpy ride towards Brimham Rocks made all the lumpier by taking in some unplanned additional hills. Losing one of the group to a lunch appointment at Brimham, our cycle roving ultimately ended up with us behind Martin's touring pace group, (how many short cuts does that guy know?) but at Studley Park we put pedal to the metal and a mad dash down to Spa Gardens made sure the two Daves were first in the queue! Led now by Geoff, a further detour home took in Newby Hall and Boroughbridge. With the headwind increasing and the odd shower, the final miles were slightly more daunting than usual. But in the end a good 50 miles for 8. William

#### Long Long Long Ride Report

For those wanting the Short Version - 3 cyclists depart Harrogate 7:35, visit Tan Hill, arrive Harrogate 22:00

Yes, actually 4 cyclists assemble near Hornbeam at 7:30. It was dry, it was grey - but it was the best weather we saw until 13:00 at Hawes! The players were :

Phil ("I may have organised this but I'm NOT the Leader")

Dan ("why have one pair of handlebars, when you can have two")

Chris ("he must be up front, somewhere")

Peter ("I'll turn up if its not raining")

We headed for the breakfast stop in Grassington via Pot Bank (shades of hills to come), Duck Street (surprisingly easy), Greenhow road to Grassington (hellish straight into a very strong wind and rain). After teacakes served by the happy waitresses we set off up the lovely back road to Buckden. As Chris disappeared off in front, that was the last we saw of him. Perhaps he'll write a report of his own adventures. As we headed up Wharfedale the rain strengthened and after Hubberholme, it was bucketing down. Wisely I had worn my waterproof socks, but the one flaw is when the rain runs down your leg filling the sock so that each pedal stroke becomes a squishy push with watering flowing back and forwards between your toes.

Approaching Fleet Moss from Oughtershaw, technically it wasn't actually raining but we couldn't see the top of the Moss for low cloud. At this point the strong South Westerly began to work in our favour and except for the odd unexpected gust from the side the ascent and descent onto Hawes were quite quick. The second stop was in the Wensleydale Creamer - which on a wet, grey day was packed with a lot of Kagoul wearing hardy types. I emptied my socks of water and we spread our wet clothing around to dry a little before the next expected soaking.

NB : the new cafe at the Creamery has underfloor heating - which is excellent if you need to warm your feet, and I didn't notice anyone particularly remarking on my bare feet. Fortified by apple pie and

cheese - worth trying but to my mind an odd combination, we stepped out of the cafe and at THAT MOMENT, the sun appeared and I won't mention the weather again as it remained sunny and windy for the rest of the day and the wind direction remained in our favour until well past Ripon in the return journey.

The Buttertubs road to Swaledale was such a contrast to the ascent to Fleet Moss - not as steep and big views to the West. There was hardly any traffic and the view down Swaledale from the other side was tremendous. The wiggly road from Thwaite to Keld is actually quite challenging, especially when it winds through what are essentially farmyards. The car drivers were mostly courteous and some even stopped to give us right of way - maybe our determined appearance made them wary. From Keld there is a fearsome looking 1:4 ascent, which is actually not too bad if there are no cars on it. The explanation: having seen us from above, they were waiting for us at the top and spoke their admiration as we toiled by - very nice, thank you. After a few more climbs we reached Tan Hill. The wind was ferocious, rolling my helmet away as I took it off. Iconic as it is, and without admiring its double glazing, we set off for the most glorious 11 mile descent to Reeth and a cuppa. With or without a following wind, this road through Arkengarthdale is delightful. Empty of traffic, with great views and with two cyclists in front clearing the sheep, I have never enjoyed the run down there so much. The Copper Kettle tea room in Reeth is EXCELLENT, especially if you park Dan by the door to keep out the draughts. Only one major climb left we set out from Grinto to Leyburn and still with wind assistance we ascended pretty well and reaped the reward of a great downhill past the slightly alarming sign: "Caution - Learner tank drivers". The rest, as they say, is history. I opted to lead back down the main road to Masham and Ripon - road very quiet and smooth, and the A61 to Harrogate - noticeably busier but still relatively quiet and quick.

So, 115 miles covered in conditions we scarcely thought possible at times. This was a wonderful ride and with good weather in summer, could easily be taken at a slower pace. As I pulled into Graveley's for the last portion of chips before they closed at 20:00, I just thought "surely there's an easier way to the chippie from my house?"

Phil and Eric had recce'd this ride in April and given it such a write up, that it was too good to miss. Phil insisted this was done at the rider's own risk and that he was not the leader. However, since he plotted the ride, published the ride, pointed out directions at various junctions, kept heading off in front, kept ascending in front, and generally knew where he was - to him must go the credit for what turned out to be a great day's cycling. Many thanks - Pete L

2011 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 2021 YTD 74374



