



Short Ride Report

Seven set off towards The Hospice turning left to make our way through Hookstone Wood amid speculative reasons as to why we were an all male group. Where were the ladies? Something to do with my aftershave (or lack of it)! Down through the showground to Forest Lane and Low Bridge then making good speed round Hay-a-Park waterfowl sanctuary when surprisingly the leaders legitimacy was questioned by an irate driver who presumably thought we had no right to be in his way. Anyway a very fine morning it was with rain farthest from our minds. A short break at Farnham then onwards towards Lingerfield , Scotton and the fast Ripley Road before peace and quiet reigned again as we sped on towards Brearton, Nidd and the dreadful A61 whereabouts it was Trevor's view that having almost reached the 15 mile stage how were we going to get home? Needless to say the replies were gentlemanly and polite. After a few minutes in Ripley an anxious foursome decided they had had enough and took themselves off leaving John and Dennis to accompany the leader back to Knox and home. A really nice morning and with 21 miles under our pedals and wheels (and no caffeine apart from Sur John) we too were back under cover before the rain did arrive. Crawford

Click on slide show for all today's photos

Medium Ride Report

Whether cyclists wanted more flat miles than less hilly ones, today's medium ride was an unusually small group! Ten it was who opted for the hilly option making a nice round dozen including Darren and myself.

So, "Darren's Darts" lead the way including Julie, Nicky, Richard and Chris whilst "Sue's Slowlies" comprising of Jean, Adam, Alyn and back from their cycling excursion to Edinburgh, Malcolm & Gia and Paul T, followed behind that is, someway behind Darren never to be seen again until Sophie's Café !!

Leaving Hornbeam behind, we next encountered Chris who had decided at this point to ditch Darren at Little Almscliff and continue at a more sensible pace, or at least the "Slowlies" pace. Having slightly deviated from the actual route, we crossed the A59 at Menwith Hill where it was decided to not drop down to Darley but take the scenic route across to Birstwith and half way down, cut off, avoid going to the bottom of the 'Birstwith Brute' and head into Hampsthwaite. Much to the surprise to Darren we arrived at Sophie's Café not much longer after than they, who had not taken the short cut and had a lovely climb into Hampsthwaite.

With some rather gooey chocolate cake (including more goo and chocolate buttons in the middle, topped with even more goo, more chocolate buttons, bits of fudge and mars bar!!) and delightfully decorated carrot cake consumed, we headed out of Hampsthwaite towards Knox and home, rather pleased that we all made it before the rain set in for the rest of the day!

Thank you to all for the slowly miles - assuming "Darren's Darts" didn't do more and possibly "Sue's Slowlies" very slightly less than advertised and Malcolm didn't stay in Hampsthwaite (!), 12 riders x 25 miles. Sue T

Medium Plus Touring Pace Ride Report

Medium Plus split into three parts today - Plus Fast, Plus and Plus Short. Hopefully the others will send in reports to rival the Official Medium Plus Ride Report. 12 riders completed the ride to Easingwold. To avoid congestion, we opted to leave Knaresborough via Waterside and Bond End on the Boroughbridge Road - to the annoyance of the Fast group as they emerged from Halfpenny Lane into our tail ! The weather remained sunny and warm all the way to Easingwold, providing great views on mainly quiet roads through Farnham, Staveley, Boroughbridge, Brafferton and Raskelf - a fairly straight forward route. Lots of cyclists were about, including one lying on his back enjoying the sun next to his up-turned bike with both wheels removed - intent on going nowhere.

'Temptations Cafe' - why Easingwold Old Folks Home decided on that name was the topic of much speculation - I'm sure your ideas are as inventive as ours. Nevertheless, we had lovely food and drinks in very comfortable chairs (no Parker-Knowle recliners in evidence). Dave Preston admitted he sighed with relief as he left the building un-challenged. He and Bill are on a promise of places once the bike racks are installed.

Halfway home and slightly later than forecast , the drizzle started and all gradually donned waterproofs, ending with the Leader succumbing at Ferrensby in the hope that finally covering up might force the rain to stop. No such luck, it just got wetter and wetter, prompting gallows humour like; 'good for the garden' , 'make the farmers happy, although it will be the wrong sort of rain', 'I hate this wet rain' etc. As predicted the ride finished at 14:30, on just about 45 miles. Two episodes of road rage must be confessed. The leader had to remonstrate with a female driver who cut us up at Boroughbridge while using a mobile at the wheel. Dave P tried to point out his error to a senior citizen who pulled out from Easingwold church as we were passing. Despite his BMW horsepower we seemed to be going faster than he, and he completely failed to understand what we were saying, ending with calling Dave 'cheeky' for engaging him in conversation !!

I must just mention the almost complete absence of hills apart from one or two bridges over the Railway and this surprisingly steep road which luckily we just avoided. I can enlighten anyone who would like to know where it is. Peter L

Medium Plus Ride -abridged version.

As we didn't want to repeat the ride that the Poddlers had done last Wednesday, Caroline thought that it would be a good idea if we attempted part of the medium plus ride. So that we didn't slow the Plus ride down we decided that we would take it at our own pace and if anyone else wanted to do so they were welcome to join us. Five riders opted to join us. The fast boys raced away and we set off after the touring pace group leaving the required "Safety" gap. We were storming along and caught up with the "touring pacers" at Low Bridge. Clearly feeling threatened, their leader forced them to continue up the hill into Knaresborough "so that they could get out of Knaresborough faster."

We followed the prescribed route to Boroughbridge via Farnham, Staveley and Minskip. We left Boroughbridge via Milby and just before the river bridge to Brafferton where we were overtaken by a group of WE cyclists. Sadly only one of whom appeared to acknowledge our presence. After Brafferton we avoided the turn off to Easingwold continuing to Aldwark and Aldwark Bridge, thence to Great Ouseburn, Marton-cum-Grafton, Arkendale, Ferrersby and Farnham, where Lynda decided that she would go the direct route to Knaresborough for a coffee infusion, to Lingerfield where Paul left us, and to Knaresborough for the rest of us. At the top of Knaresborough mountain, just as the rain was starting to get heavier, we finally split up and headed for our various homes. A pleasant ride of 42.5 miles for six and 48 miles for the other. Thanks for your company. Max

Medium Plus Ride Report

A group of six riders undertook the Medium Plus Faster ride to Easingwold. However as we prefer a slightly long run, we added two loops to the standard route. On the outward leg, we passed through Bishop Monkton and then Roecliffe, and on the return leg after Aldwark Bridge we took the narrow lane to Lower Dunsforth where we turned left for Marton, but missing Grafton, before returning to Knaresborough through Arkendale. The ride was 52 miles, and thanks to the flat route and a steady pace, we achieved an average speed of 16.5 mph. Roger Stubbings

Long Ride Report

6 riders set off on the long ride, sadly without the appointed leader for the day. Rumour had it that Jill wasn't well, so we were all very sympathetic and wished her a speedy recovery - at least until the rain started at 12.30, when it was suggested that Jill must have heard the weather forecast and knew what would be hitting us for the rest of the day! In Jill's absence we decided to follow her route as far as our memory and the weather would allow us. So we set off via Burn Bridge, Almscliffe Crag, Leathley, Otley, Ilkley, reaching Bolton Abbey at 11.30, where 5 stopped for refreshments at the Abbey Tea Rooms: David R was on way back to Harrogate owing to time constraints.

Over coffee we discussed various route options depending on the weather, which was still reasonably warm and bright - I'd arrived at Bolton Abbey in short sleeve shirt wearing sunglasses! We continued along the gated road through Hesketh Farm to Embsay, where it was time to don rain jackets, and from the long distance views we could see that much more heavy rain would be soon be arriving. So at 12.30 we switched to Plan B - the shorter route home with the long steep climb up Halton Height, followed by the equally long steep descent to Barden Tower - an interesting experience rediscovering the ineffectiveness of wet brakes at 40 mph! James then turned left for Appletreewick, Stump Cross, and home to Pateley Bridge. The remaining 4 turned right for Bolton Abbey, and along the main A59 Skipton Road for Harrogate.

As a section of the road is closed, it was a rare opportunity to cycle the A59 expecting it to be deserted. Richard P and Peter J disappeared into the distance. As this was not the weather to wait for slower members enjoying the conditions, so we never saw them again. That left just 2 of us, Peter B and myself, enjoying ourselves. Enjoying? This was not nice warm rain. The temperature had now dropped to 9C, but the wind chill made it feel much colder. The rain was getting even heavier, it was very cold sharp rain. It soaked through all your layers, it filled your shoes, it chilled you to the marrow. I haven't been so cold and wet for a long time - not since, well, last Wednesday when the EGs were caught in a thunderstorm! But that lasted only 30 minutes, today's rain is going on for hour after hour. Our previous intelligence proved incorrect: there is no access for pedestrians or cyclists through the road works, so we had to divert via West End and rejoin the main road at Blubberhouses. We then continued up the hill before turning right to Fewston where we hoped to get warm drinks at Fewston Parochial Hall, perhaps.

There was a trial Farmer's Market at the Hall, where there was a stall selling cakes, and not much else, certainly no drinks. Not much in the way of customers either, just Peter and I, and Chris from Guiseley, who struck up a conversation over cakes. A lady on the Horticap stall took pity on us and offered to make tea for the three of us. Chris treated us, and wanted to know if all the members of Wheel Easy were as friendly as we were, and wanted to join WE! Eventually, the few stalls were being packed away so we couldn't shelter in the dry any longer, and finally arrived home at 4.15. After 45 minutes soaking in a hot bath, circulation and body temperature had been restored to normal. Chris then phoned - his internet was down so he couldn't access the Wheel Easy website and therefore didn't

know who to send his membership fee to! I assured him he was very welcome to come along as a guest rider and join on any ride .5 riders completed 57 miles, and one 50 miles; 335 miles total. Eric

add on to Eric's report.

As the rain was well set, and getting chilly and unable to see much let alone the others, Peter and Richard kept on up the A59, though with plenty of cars ignoring the closed signs. A request to see if we could go down the pass was refused, as well - as concrete wagons were rolling up. So over to West End, inspected the canoeists and on and up to Menwith, where the police were stopping the traffic (shame it was now an open road) and home in heavier rain. A good 50m at a brisk pace. Richard

2011 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 2323 YTD 81654



