



Saturday Ride Report

Eight cyclists met at Hornbeam at 1.30. Richard S and Adam Y went off together for a fast ride, but at Stainburn woods Richard, proving a notch faster, went on ahead to Blubberhouses, Greenhow, Pateley, Bewerley, up Yorke's Folly and down to Darley. He then climbed past the Wellington to Menwith, and along Pennypot Lane back to Harrogate (39 miles). Adam also reached Greenhow, returning by a slightly more direct route down Duck Street (35 miles). This left Malcolm in the care of 5 ladies - Bridget, Jean, Sue H, Debbie H and Lynda M - for the Wetherby round via Walton Head Lane, Kirkby O and Sicklinghall. In Wetherby, Jean led us to Mango, an Indian restaurant with excellent coffee, ice cream sundaes, fruit smoothies and flapjacks which satisfied all our cravings, before we took the old railway line back to Spofforth and Harrogate. 22 very enjoyable miles. Malcolm

Sunday Ride Reports

Short Ride Report

Five riders, Carolyn, Caroline, Liz, Linda and Gia enjoyed a leisurely and warm ride to Hampsthwaite with the obligatory café stop at Sophie's. We cycled there via Beckwithshaw and Pennypot and back via Knox, introducing the ladies to Martin's ramp on Woodfield Road (part of the Sustrans links to schools route) and the cycle path round the High School. 16 miles covered easily by everyone and some new bits of routes and café for some. Gia

Click on slide show for all the weekend photos

Medium Ride Report

13 of us assembled in our designated start position but this was not just a club ride it was a national event because Ann had come all the way from Oxford to do today's ride. Paul Blackham was good enough to volunteer to be back marker for the ride and Alec and Sue were road testing their brand new made to measure bikes which looked very nice and seemed to work very well, we passed Burn Bridge then sprinted up to Kirkby Overblow but as I was gently meandering down the road towards the junction with Northgate Lane a bee flew into my mouth and stung me which was not the most pleasant experience I have ever had but there was a ride to lead so onwards and upwards, when we arrived at the junction in Linton my knowledge of the next few junctions was somewhat limited so Alec was enlisted as ride leader and he guided us to Bramham village without any deviations. As we crossed the bridge in Clifford we had a motorist coming in the opposite direction who for reasons known only to this motorist wanted to drive at our side of the road I politely suggested that it would make it easier for us all if we all used the correct side of the road. At this point Keith left us to go and have coffee at his son's house, just a few miles further on the rest of us called at Thorpe arch apart from Paul who continued back home in time for lunch, the coffee break seemed to take longer than normal but the sun was shining and we were sat near the pond which had some rather large Koy Carp in it, after an hour drinking and talking it was time to continue cycling and we made our way back to Hornbeam via the cycle tracks to Wetherby and on to Spofforth then back down Rudding lane and across the show ground. Admittedly not the fastest ride I have ever led but we had done 34 miles which were very enjoyable with lots of chat, laughs and good company. Many thanks Terry

Medium Plus Touring Pace Ride Report

Right said Gia, medium plus bottom car park, so a goodly number dutifully made their way down hill, here Richard divided the number in to three groups, the fast, the not so fast, and the slightly slower than the not so fast. So under Richards orders away went the fast, then the slightly slower than the not so fast, while the not so fast under Richards leadership waited in the blocks. The six comprising, Bill, Bob, Dave P, Richard, Roy and new rider Steve Mundie (on fixed pushing a 46/19) headed for Staveley and Boroughbridge, where Richard (very kindly) asked the question anybody want a coffee stop?, as four of the six were EG`s the issue was never in any doubt. Tea and toasted teacakes were taken outside in the sun. Here we learnt that Steve not only builds his own bikes, he also makes his own frames, and at present frame number ten is on his jig. Up to now the pace had been quite fast (for some) and it still didn't let up as on to Milby Thornton Bridge and hang a left to Pilmoor and Hutton Sessay crossing the A19 (not to bad) to Carlton Husthwaite, the sharp left then right to the sneaky little climb in to Coxwold, if you are not ready in granny gear it can bite you in the bum, as it did to a car towing a caravan who just managed to pass us. On this hill Bill took max points closely followed by Richard, with Steve on fixed putting up a strong performance, as we were to learn later going up hills, not a problem, going down, now that's different. Swoop down into Coxwold where we picked up Nick, then out of Coxwold past Newburgh Priory up the hill ,and right turn to hit the outskirts of Husthwaite and the fast descent to Easingwold and Temptations Cafe, here we met " the slightly slower than the not so fast" group. (see photo). who then departed. Refreshment was taken in the pleasant surroundings of the garden, though Steve`s poached egg was some time in arriving, in fact we thought he was on seconds. The magnificent seven then headed for home, in sunshine and an inconsiderate wind, the fit part of the peloton pushing the wind with three EG`s hanging on to rear wheels , but still pleased with their performance. Over Aldwark Bridge through Branton Green (no banana break) and Harrogate for 3-00pm. (its a while since some of us have done 55miles and arrived back for 3-00pm) So 7 x 55 = 385 miles. Thanks to Richard for leading a great ride. I'm not sure if Richard said "will you write the report" or "you will write the report" any way leaders must be obeyed. Dave P

An excited 7 set out on their own adventure east towards the wilds of the wolds. Helen and Keith on peak form after their tour of the mountain stages of the Tour de France, Gordon and Sur John ready for speed and distance after a heavy training programme, Allison back from a cruise for the over 80s, Liz in training for the Tour of Great Britain left Richard P and the very fast people planning their approach to the day. By the first set of traffic lights the fast lycra boys had overtaken us, nicely following Darren (with the lovely hair cut)'s lead with a cheery wheel easy hello. However, by the

second set of traffic lights we had re overtaken them. Tortoise and hare come to mind. Richard and the other speedy people were nowhere to be seen they had disappeared into the ether. After a quick stop at Low Bridge we continued to Boroughbridge where in true cycling technique Liz took the lead of the peloton, Caroline dropped back to hang on the back until the end of the race...sorry ride. We reached the Dave Preston Retirement Home Easingwold at a cracking pace after 2 hours and an average speed of 13 miles per hour. It is amazing what flat land and a following wind can do for you.

After a welcome break coffee or tea and bacon sandwiches (not brilliant ... soggy bread and no crispy bacon....should have stuck to my homemade bread and smoked salmon) for all and a biscuit for Sur John we tried to leave but were needed, because we were nice photographic models, to pose and enhance Dave P's photo record of today's escapades and proof that Richard P's group had actually caught us up. Allison felt she had had enough reminders of her world cruise and was keen to continue with her old friends along a route home brilliantly concocted by the next leader Keith. Bidding Richard a tearful, but unnoticed, farewell Liz set the team off and let the new leader take over. As we headed into the wind towards Alne, a flash of lycra and confusion snaked past, disappearing into the horizon at an unnatural speed. Around Ethelburger's we headed up an excellent lane (totally unknown to me) and over a railway line and eventually reached Walshford Bridge where Liz, Gordon and Helen formed a trusty cow guard for Allison and stormed past a couple of vicious guard dogs onto Lord Ribston's estate. Keith led us, via a lovely lovely metalled path, as we waved at pleasant people in a tractor and continued on our way over a beautiful Victorian type bridge and out of the elaborate park gates. We all surged on to Spofforth and Follifoot where after kindly giving hill climbing tuition Sur John finally was able to surge off on his own and the rest of us surged with slightly less speed towards home and a welcome drink and time to watch the son Helen and I are planning to adopt lose the second stage of the Spanish Vuelta. Thanks to all the team, a brilliant ride of ..54 miles at a very surprising speed, in very pleasant sunny and flat conditions. Caroline G

Medium Plus Ride Report

Nine riders set off from hornbeam, hot on the heels of one of the other groups, only to suffer our first puncture of the day before we'd even got through the traffic lights at Woodlands Avenue. With the puncture fixed we set off again to make our way to Coxwold. Just outside Boroughbridge a small group decided to chase down a passing lone cyclist who was cutting quite a pace. They disappeared off into the distance and we eventually re-grouped at the next junction where they claimed to have caught said cyclist! We started out again only to discover that Darren had a puncture, our second of the day, which he attributed to his encounter with a rather large pothole at high speed during the chase. We made good speed after this to a very pleasant lunch stop in Coxwold. After a short(ish) climb out of Coxwold we picked up the pace and put a good effort in against the ever increasing headwind. The pace stayed high all the way home with the speed tipping 30kph (18.6mph) on several occasions. I clocked 88.5km in total, with an average speed of 26.7kph, that's 55 miles at 16.6mph in 'old money'. A great ride, great weather, and great company. Thank you. Alison

Long Ride Report

It was an early start of 8am for the long ride & 9 people turned out. It was a familiar route up to Stump Cross after which the group split into a touring pace group & a faster group who weren't seen again. Paul left the group at Appletreewick to head home while the touring pace group had a first café stop at Burnsall, afterwards continuing on to Cracoe, Hetton & Gargrave. From here the next section of the route was new to most of the group as we on to Broughton & Elslack before doing a scenic loop around the moors & then heading down into Skipton. On the way back there was another café stop at Bolton Abbey before the final push for home via Ilkley, Askwith & Fewston. It was a great ride in good company - approx 80 (hilly) miles. On returning home a brief report was received from the faster group - "It was great to see some new bits of countryside and face new challenges (coded way of saying it was tough). For the record we followed your route to the letter with stops at Cracoe and Cockpit Farm Cafe. 2 of us took a slight detour over Langbar so the stop at Cockpit Farm was essential. 4 riders 86.5 miles." Jill F

I left the group at Appletreewick and returned home as I needed time by myself to reflect on another defeat by Newcastle. I have never seen so many cyclists on the route back to Harrogate. I am sure

most were on black and white bikes. I returned via Bolton Abbey, Ilkley, Otley, Pool, Weeton and Kirkby Overblow. I stopped for coffee at Cockpit Farm achieving a personal record of cycling over 40 miles without a coffee! I arrived home at 12.30 having cycle 56 miles. I enjoyed the early start! Paul

2011 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Weekend 2304 YTD 114735



