



Short Ride Report

A very select group of four riders set off from Hornbeam and took a ride around the Harrogate tourists sights before heading west to Pennypot Lane, over the A59 and down to Hampsthwaite. Kerry, a new rider, soon discovered the essential requirement of Wheel Easy membership - the consumption of coffee, tea, and cakes. Then the weather gods turned nasty and our return home was distinctly damp but we made it back to Harrogate in good spirits. 4x14 miles. Martin W

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Medium Ride Report

There was a good turnout of medium riders, so Alec was volunteered to lead a faster group of 8, leaving a select 5 to take a more leisurely pace. We were overtaken on Walton Head Lane by the medium plus-ers, then on to Kirkby Overblow and Sicklinghall. Caroline's splendid new bike was performing well, apart from the odd gear change malfunction, caused, in the view of the group's technical advisors, by 'girly shifting'. We took the cycle path to bypass Wetherby, then along the road to Kirk Deighton, Little Ribston, Spofforth and Follifoot. At Ridding, Mr. Blackham and Mrs. Graham were spotted indulging in a bit of furtive bike swapping behind the bushes; Wheel-Easy's variation on wife-swapping, according to Mervyn! The rain then set in as we approached the showground and were shamed into going via Horrible Hill, by newish rider Carolyn, who had conquered it the previous week and beat us all to the top. Returning to Hornbeam, the faster group had not yet returned, as they had added an extra loop (not gone the wrong way!) 23 miles x 5 & 28 miles x 8. Sue W

Medium Plus Touring Pace Ride Report

Over twenty of us set off from Hornbeam in three groups. The fast group shot off first and Liz P led the group who had decided not to go as far as Roundhay Park. Once again Dave P agreed to be the back marker as he is excellent at ensuring no one is lost on route. There were so many of us so we tried throughout the morning to keep in small groups allowing cars to pass by.

The route took us to Burn Bridge, over the A61 roundabout, up Walton Head Lane to Kirkby Overblow, Sicklinghall, Linton and Collingham. At the junction of Jewitt Lane and Crompton Lane we tried to split into smaller groups before the speed track on the road from East Keswick, Bardsey and Wike to Slaid Hill. Angela using her local knowledge led one group along the quieter West Yorkshire Cycleway.

We all arrived at the 'The Dexter' and Liz's group decided to continue to the café in Roundhay Park. It was a lovely morning to cycle through the Park and the café coped well with so many of us.

After refreshments we continued back to Slaid Hill and along Wigton Lane, turning along Manor House Lane, over the A61 to Eccup reservoir, Eccup village, past the Sun Inn, Weardley, over Harewood Bridge and onto Kirkby Overblow. Once we were all assembled we agreed the different route home.

We covered 35 miles and it was certainly another great Wheel Easy ride. Thanks Dave, Liz and Angela and well done to those who did the extra miles. Paul

Long Ride Report

It looks as if I might have a glowing future as a used car salesman, as the long ride turned out to be 85 miles rather than the advertised 70 miles, but results count and I managed to hoodwink 7 victims to join me on the ride. We formed a well matched group and apart from one puncture (skilfully dealt with by Terry) we made good progress to Helmsley via Byland Abbey and Nunnington. There are lots of good cafés in Helmsley but I favour The Walled Garden, unfortunately I forgot to mention that it's veggie, and new rider Dave was very disappointed when he tried to order a Bacon Sandwich.

After lunch we had a long slow drag through Rievaulx and Old Byland to the top of Boltby Bank (Sneck Yate); descending was a bit quicker particularly for Peter who appears to have no fear of wet, slippery roads and loose gravel. Two riders left us at Boroughbridge (Jim and Martin) but Dave, who lives in Roecliffe, managed to resist the temptation of an early finish and carried on back to Harrogate to complete the ride. Mileage 7 riders 85 miles and 1 rider 65 miles - 660 miles.

The Arthur Metcalfe Memorial Ride

Three Wheel Easy members, Alison, Darren and Mark, set off under heavy skies to ride the Arthur Metcalfe Memorial Ride from Easingwold on behalf of MacMillan cancer. There were two circuits, one flat of 25 miles going through, Aldwark, Boroghbridge, Raskelf and back to Easingwold, which was completed at a cracking average pace of 19mph, and a second circuit of 25 miles with a few hills, visiting Stillington, Terrington bank, and Hovingham which should (and I mean should!) have made a nice round 50. However, we being the keen types added an extra 7 miles (yep we err...got lost) to make a total of 57 miles. Second half done at an average of 17.4 mph. As we rode into the finish a chap said to Darren (who was wearing his green HTC top) "do I know you!?". I was just dying to say ... well you can guess. We did Wheel Easy proud!! Mark

2011 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 1926 YTD 133915



