



Short Ride Report

We welcomed neophyte (sounds dubious, but according to my dictionary it just means 'new convert') Jane, to the unusually numerous and experienced ranks of the short ride today. The 9 riders included 2 EG's (one suffering stiff joints, the other a hangover), 2 who recently completed the 85 mile ride to Bridlington and several who have done the C2C. Our route was Burn Bridge, Walton Head Lane, Kirkby O and then along the by-pass to Hags Road and down to Spofforth. As we attempted to turn right towards Little Ribston a couple of drivers thought about mowing us down or committing suicide by overtaking on a busy left hand bend, but the fates were kind and we made it to the safety of Ribston Road. Then it was Wetherby Road (unusually busy) to Knaresborough and the tranquillity of Abbey Road and Waterside to our destination café, The Riverside. By 8 votes to one (me) we decided to sit outside and were promptly served with huge (and very good) mugs of coffee, bacon sandwiches, flapjacks and everything the hungry cyclist could ask for. At the bridge we split, 4 going straight up the A59 and cycle path, and 5 up the Beryl Burton mainly so that we could experience the Sustrans cycle path from Bilton Lane to the Dragon Bridge and Asda. The fabulous tarmac surface (see photo) had been laid during the week. Apologies to all, especially Jane who got more than she bargained for, for the extra distance, 21 miles in all, but with the exceptionally mild weather and fine company I don't think anyone really minded. Malcolm

Click on slide show for all the weekend photos

Medium Ride Report

Grey skies and 7 riders opted for this 25 mile med ride. It felt strange to lead the merry troops on this ride as I am used to the fast boys and girls ride. It was certainly a relaxing ride. That was until we were at Little Almscliff to wait for some of our peloton when Paul T comes steadily past with Gia not far behind. We all cheered her (bless her) as their group was some way behind. They obviously had Weetabix this morning. We continued past Sun Inn to Darley, Birstwith and onto Sophie's where we had coffee/tea and cakes. It was then back home. Well done to all. The lady on her new bike did really well, Darren

Medium Plus Touring Pace Ride Report

The heat and high temperatures collapsed to something more normal for our Sunday Rides and we were treated to cooler temperatures with odd spots of rain through the day, but it was refreshing and made the big hills that bit easier. Heading out over Timble the seven of us made for a chatty group and after the big climbs we were soon passing Ilkley and heading up to Bolton Abbey. NYCC have asked for our views on road safety aspects of the lane from Ilkley Golf Club up to Bolton Abbey so to gather some statistics in the 20 minutes it took us to ride the lane I counted an astonishing 56 riders coming the opposite way and we saw 18 walkers - a case for "Access Only" for vehicular traffic - I think so. We watched the rain increasing while sat in the Bolton Abbey Tea Rooms and by democratic decision we cut short the ride by heading down to Cavendish Pavilion, then over the footbridge and we were soon heading back up the other side of the River Wharfe. At this point there was a slight coming together and Dave S ended up on the floor. Fortunately he was unhurt but he soon found that a small piece of his gear changers had come adrift completely disabling his gears. So we had to leave Dave as he made arrangements to be picked up.

The weather improved again and the climb up from Appletreewick to Stumps Cross never gets flatter but we all made it in good spirits accompanied by 3 girls out riding from Leeds area and doing a fairly heroic hilly loop to return to Shadwell. We helped with some directions and Gia left our card so hopefully we will have some new recruits for the future. The return home was via Hampsthwaite and despite all our efforts to ride past Sophie's our bikes just refused to go straight home and automatically turned in forcing us to have tea and scones! 7 x 53 miles. Martin W

Medium Plus Ride Report

Stepping in at short notice (or should I say "saddling up") to cover for Dave. P. who is still suffering with his back. I took a slightly modified version of the published route. 13 riders left Hornbeam following our well worn tracks to Farnham where Sir John left us and we were joined by Paul B. After Farnham we were accompanied by a cavalcade of Land Rovers/Range Rovers on their annual rally. (You all know the difference between a Range Rover and a Hedgehog). Continuing on via Boroughbridge, Milby and Brafferton to Aldwark bridge. Returning home via Arkendale and Knaresborough. Apologies to those who missed out on the morning coffees. Hopefully Dave will soon be back in charge. 13 x about 40 miles. Dennis B

Long Ride Report

We started with 10 riders, including Alison & Mark who usually ride with the fast medium plus group. With less than a mile done from Hornbeam, Phil suffered a puncture, but encouraged the rest of the group to continue & promised to catch us up. It was a fairly brisk pace heading out past Little Almscliffe on to Fewston, Timble & Askwith. One other rider decided to head back at an early stage. Once past Bolton Abbey we were into new territory for a couple of riders as we continued to make good progress to the much needed lunch stop at Cracoe where all opted for the "cyclist's special". It was then home via Thorpe, Burnsall, Appletreewick & the climb up to Stump Cross. As we reached Duck Street we met up with the group led by Martin & Richard decided to join them for the additional café stop at Hampsthwaite.

A great ride in good company - nice to see some more people joining the long ride & luckily the rain never became more than a drizzle. And we never did see Phil again.... Approx 65 miles. Jill

Off Road Ride Report

Arriving back at Ripley after a four hour challenging ride along Nidderdale we reflected on how disappointing that not more of our Wheel-Easy members could have joined us for the adventure into

new territories. Setting off just after 10am from Ripley, allowing for any latecomers, Dave Watson, Peter Bradley & Dave Wheeler, (Yes yet another Dave, perhaps he'll join the EG's as deputy-deputy leader) headed south west past the castle initially along Hollybank lane. Skirting off right at Saddlers Carr, up the incline we climbed towards High Rails farm on a good if gravelly lane and aiming for Bedlam. After a short ride on tarmac we ventured left and off road along a grassy lane next to Hill-Top diving down hill into Shaw Mills. By-passing the village we followed the Nidderdale Way past Cow Gate farm, Black House, Woodfield House, pausing to reconsult the map to verify our route which seemed to disappear into the undergrowth. It was sometime since the group leader had recced the route and those "senior moments" seemed to be plaguing him. Onwards past yet another herd of cows or were they "bullocks", to Brimham Lodge, looking more like a miniature Forest Moor, judging by the myriad of wireless masts.

Exiting again onto tarmac at Burtree Hill there was a choice of return routes, the easy and the challenging. Despite the poor weather, albeit mainly dry. overcast, all riders decided to risk the steep descent and correspondingly long climbs which were to follow. We thus headed west towards Smelthouse but turned left down the lane to Hartwith. Just after the reservoir on our right and the pursuing herd of cattle in the adjacent field we struck off right towards Summerbridge. Hesitating at the top of the steep descent for refreshments discussing the identity of the hovering rapture, was it a Kestrel or a Red Kite?, we gathered up our courage before diving down the narrow, rocky path, trying desperately to stay on two wheels and avoid falling off into the undergrowth. The path exited just behind Summerbridge and we briefly stopped at the X-Rds to gather our breath. The route continued along the north side of the river bank coming out near New York industrial estate. Now for the challenging bit. The long steep climb up through Birch Wood. Here we were met by not only a very steep incline but a dry and loose surface interlaced by large and sometimes loose rocks. After being tossed aside several times we had to admit defeat and ungraciously walk. Halfway up Dave Wheeler spotted what looked like a Ski jump and it being level thought a great chance to launch himself upwards. On reaching Braisty Woods we circled around Low Laithe and Smelt Houses, nearly missing a left turn hidden halfway down the hill. Returning north east we ventured left into the woods yet again to Low Wood and then branching off right up a long sometimes soft & and sometimes rocky climb towards Mauds Farm near Brimham Rocks. Each of us falling off several times we struggled to the top for a brief rest and a ride photo.

The general consensus led to a diversion towards the National Trust kiosk for coffee, etc. and a well earned rest. On the way out we were surprised to stumble upon one of our Wheel-Easy co-members, this time "bikeless" out walking with friends. No other than Peter Jackson. After a brief chat we were on our way back toward Burtree Hill where we climbed up left to Beckside Farm, circling around to Gill Moor Farm of ice cream fame. The route from here was mainly down hill, heading to Hatton House Farm, along the old drovers road to Thornton Grange and exiting on to tarmac on Cut Throat lane north of Shaw Mills. The next section was tricky inasmuch the route was ill defined and in parts blocked by yet, some more obstinate cows. Crossing open fields we found our way in to High Kettle Spring struggling up yet one more loose surfaced and rocky incline to be met by a thick muddy area, or was it cow "what em a call it" which we had to wade through before dropping off into the undergrowth, nettles and all, past Low Kettle Spring. At last we escaped the jungle and headed along a surfaced lane back toward civilisation and Ripley.

Consensus seemed to agree the ride had been challenging but enjoyable taking in new scenes and revealing how easy it really is to get away from it all so near to home, away from all the traffic noise which seems always to dominate our lives and the mad motorists which try to hound us off the roads.--
---Dave Watson; sorry not more of you could join in our adventure. Distance covered:- 21 miles (90% off-road) Total distance 3 x 21 = 63. David Watson.

2011 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 1908 YTD 137173



