



### Medium Ride Report

It was a dank foggy morning at Hornbeam but there were still 16 people wanting to do this ride after the faster group set off so we split into 2 groups the 2nd of which Caroline was kindly volunteered to lead. After passing through Burn Bridge and negotiating the busy A61 we headed for Kirby Overblow missing out on the usual wonderful views and descended into Wetherby where Linda and Sur John hopefully lead Sue C's escorts (who had graduated from the short ride) safely home. Both groups then headed for the Thorp Arch cycle track disobeying the instructions and going the other way round to avoid the uphill stretches and also because the leader would still be trying to get out of Clifford if she had had to go the other way! The first group had a short stop in Boston Spa and then headed off to Clifford with only a few emergency stops (thank you Gordon!). Here Peter, Paul and Mary- sorry Paul R- from the faster group were rather bemused to meet us coming from the other direction. There was no sign whatsoever of the rest of that group so we can only assume they had gone home!

From Bramham we enjoyed the wonderful downhill swoop into Wetherby where Dennis, Gordon and Alison headed straight off home for lunch dates. The remaining 4 headed for Morrisons where we were joined by the remnants of Caroline's group who had taken a short cut at Boston Spa. All indulged in warming food and drink in an effort to restore circulation to our extremities! Felling a bit warmer Dave went straight home to Kirk Deaton where he expected his wife to act as taxi driver. Sue C and Caroline also went in that direction informing us that they didn't want to be 'Dirty Girls' as we would be after cycling the Spofforth cycle track! Eric also chose to accompany us. A short while later the splinter group caught up with us at Follifoot and not a speck of mud was seen - hence the question where the bike wash was! There was also a comment - can I have a new hip if it makes you go as fast as that! About 32 miles. Thank you Caroline for leading the other group and Eric for being a brilliant back marker. Liz

As the third group dallied along the Harland way to Thorpe arch Dave realised he had a brake malfunction, Sue W leapt forward and effortlessly repaired Dave's brake system.....With a little help from Sue C. on the accademic aspects of the whole operation, Sue W saved the day again with her brilliant mechanical skills. Caroline

Sunday's rides will be remembered for the fog. The 'slightly faster' medium ride will be no exception. We set off from Hornbeam with every available light flashing or glowing quietly in the gloom, over Kirkby Overblow and down into Wetherby without incident. At Wetherby we found our way to the cycle path, pausing to re-group at the A1 roundabout. At this point I noticed that two riders were missing, one of whom was Paul Tindle who had kindly volunteered to be back marker. We peered through the fog until a cyclist in orange emerged. He muttered a few words and we all nodded politely. I took what he had said to be that Paul was right behind us. Later it emerged that none of us had understood a word, but at that point I assumed the man in orange was one of us so I waved the group on with the assurance that Paul knew the way and would soon catch up.

Lesson number 1 - Orange means caution

Meanwhile said man in orange had set off ahead with us following.

By this time I had slipped back to half-way down our bunch and was calmly chatting to another cyclist Suddenly, I noticed that Orange Man had taken a different route to the one I intended. I yelled after those who had followed Orange Man down a dirt track but to no avail. Soon we were all heading down the dirt track and shortly found ourselves in Braham. Too late we realised that Orange Man was not one of us as he headed off in the direction of Leeds. I did the only thing I could at this point and asked if anyone knew where the hell we were. Luckily Peter knew and volunteered to show us the way back to Boston Spa.

Lesson number 2 - If someone knows the way, let him go to the front

We duly swooped down a hill into Braham which was awfully loud for a Sunday morning. Something seemed to have triggered every burglar alarm in the village. This is why we didn't hear Peter when he peeled off, yelling, down the correct route to Boston Spa and why we soon found ourselves back in the same place that we had been in when we realised that Orange Man was an imposter!

Now, not only were we lost again but we had lost our guide as well. There was nothing for it but to retrace our tracks up the dirt road where I could once again pick up our intended route. As we rode into Boston Spa, who should be standing at the side of the road but our three missing cyclists!

Reunited, we cycled back into Wetherby for a well-earned coffee break. The trip back to Harrogate was much like the trip out - foggy but uneventful. Ian

Click on slide show for all the weekend photos

Medium Plus Touring Pace Ride Report

About 9 Super Touring pace departed for Thorpe Perrow and the rest of us followed in two much more sedate groups.

Some very welcome advice at Hornbeam from our Chairman - I had no hesitation in deviating from the programme route to ensure safety.

Stage 1: Hornbeam to Ripon - a little overcast

Ripon reassessment meeting, 3 outcomes:

- go home without taking in the scenic delights of Thorpe Perrow
- don't go home without having phoned ahead to ensure immersion heater switch in 'on' position
- wash n clean bike 'tomorrow'

Stage 2: Ripon, Galphay (we stopped to view and have photo taken in the delightful pinfold), Winksley, Grantley, Sawley then a real climb of 20% - how many cyclist can walk up a hill?, Bishop Thornton, Sophie's (of course) Hampsthwaite, and home.

Well done to all riders for maintaining the 'Wheel Easy' zest and enthusiasm. Thanks to Martin for his careful shepherding of the flock on the revised route. 17 riders, 42 miles. Sarah Cross

Medium Plus Ride Report

Eight of us set out for the Medium Plus Fast ride and were quickly joined by another along the route making our group nine. Everything was going well until we reached Wath where we lost Darren and Mark who had gone on ahead and missed the turn off in Wath. One of the group decided to turn back at this point and following a debate about the correct route and a phone call to Darren, to find out where they were, we agreed to reconvene en route. Darren and Mark made good progress on to Masham and said they had found a new route along the river...which could explain why we didn't meet up with them before the cafe. Our group's journey into Masham was slightly more eventful with a spectacular crash on a sharp downhill bend which took out two riders. Incredibly both fell onto the grassy verge and emerged unscathed. The drama over, we continued on to Masham for the cafe stop at the Sun Catcher cafe. There was definitely no sun to be caught today and we continued home through the murky weather via Grewelthorpe and Ripon. The funniest part of the day (well for me anyway) was when we were paying for our food at the cafe and the guy who owned it asked me "do they have to give you a head start then?", I looked puzzled and said I didn't understand what he meant, to which he replied "well you're the only girl"! I think the look on my face must have said it all as he very quickly said "oh I was only joking"! The ride was billed as 55 but I had clocked 35 already way before we reached Masham. The battery on my Garmin gave up the ghost so I don't have a final number but I'd suggest that 60 miles would be nearer the mark. Thanks for a great ride, great company, terrible weather, dubious navigation : Alison

#### Long Ride Report

Phil, Glyn Peter and Richard set off to do the long ride as prescribed, as Paul Hudson said the weather would be fine and east would be awful. Pot Bank was in sunshine and it got better and like a glorious summer's day up Duck Street and no wind either. A fast decent down Stump Cross and a good brunch at Hebden. The fog was visible across the Wharfe at Thorpe but so what, we were not going that way. Photo stops every where to prove how sunny it was as we could not believe our luck. Conistone Bridge and up Littondale taking the first right and climbing up parallel to and with the descending river. We had dropped Arncliffe for time, but then added Kettlewell as it was so fine. But by Linton our luck was out, the fog was back ,time was short and we abandoned Bolton and Ilkley for Skyreholme and Stump Cross. From here it could have been anywhere and we had to go slow so we could see the mist running off us. Vision of sorts was restored as the mist gave way to dripping trees as the pace speeded up back down Penny Pot and home.  $4 \times 72m = 288$  av 13.9 . A good repeatable ride at touring pace on a longer day keeping to the route, and a great day anyway. Richard.

2011 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 2054 YTD 161524



