



Short Ride Report

Hornbeam, Showground Cycle Path, Rudding Lane, Follifoot, Spofforth, Little Ribston, Knaresborough, Abbey Road, Waterside Café, Knaresborough Road, Stonefall Avenue, Hookstone Road, Hornbeam 16 miles

Keogans' Calamitous Capers

Lynda and I were delighted to be joined by Jane (welcome to first Sunday ride) and Kevin (usually does Wednesday rides) Keogan. Obviously, quality rather than quantity for today's magnificent ride.

Determined to show our getaway and let's get at it skills, we left Hornbeam at speed only to be split by the lights at the Oatlands Drive/Hookstone Road junction. Lynda and I managed a green light and consequently awaited the arrival of Kevin and Jane. Owing to this being the site of one of Harrogate's many roadworks, we waited and waited and then, that slick team of long Wheel Easy riders appeared and Eric delivered the news that there had been an accident but not to worry the Keogans were coming... Not having witnessed the crisis and certainly without wishing to use terms like "domestic" or indeed "punch-up", it would appear that rapid braking behind his beloved had caused Kev to fly over his handlebars. Totally undaunted, he said he was fine and we carried on enjoying the sunshine, gusts and Sunday traffic until, as we sailed up the hill beyond Spofforth en route for Little Ribston, a plaintive cry resounded from behind, "Oh, no!" Kevin had spotted Jane's flat tyre. Exchanging his cycle gloves for surgeon's latex ones, and despite his now rapidly swelling jaw, Kevin nobly fixed the offending problem and yet again, we sallied forth for coffee and comfort (of the jaw rubbing kind) by the Nidd. Jane had stated that she'd never done the Beryl Burton route and so she and Kevin cycled off together to conquer the heights - hopefully, this proved trouble-free and that the Keogans' crises stopped at two...Lynda and I took the main route to Starbeck and subsequently home. Lynda was going to visit

Pete to whom best wishes are sent - hope we'll see him at the forthcoming Wheel Easy festivities. Sue D

Click on slide show for all the weekend photos

Medium Ride Report

It was seriously windy, but the sun was shining when we met up at Hornbeam. The planned medium ride to Stainburn Woods and through the woods on the tracks was thought to be too horrible following all the rain we've had, so Paul and Gia proposed an alternative route to Otley via Burn Bridge, Kirkby Overblow and Pool. We split into 2 groups of 7, Paul leading the first and faster group, and Geraldine and I the second. It was hard work going West into the wind, but the ride along the narrow Walton Head Lane from the A61 to Kirkby Overblow was lovely, with great views. Caroline and Liz both picked up thorns from the copious amount of hedge trimmings on the road, but neither actually got a puncture. Down the hill from Kirkby Overblow back to the A61, and then right through Dunkeswick and through the villages to Pool. We crossed the fairly-full Wharfe and really hit the headwind as we headed into Otley. Paul's group were probably well ensconced in the new-to-me 'café Café' when we arrived at Smith's garden centre on the outskirts of Otley, where Paul had come back to ensure we could find the café (which was excellent).

After refreshment and the group photo outside the café, we continued as one group of 10, as we had lost a total of 4 riders by then. We crossed the river and turned immediately right uphill towards Farnley and but at least the wind was behind us now. We climbed and then descended steeply to Lindley Wood Reservoir, and then climbed again along Pill White Lane (strange name...). and kept climbing till we got to to Briscoerigg Farm, which Gia calls 'the top of the world', I think. Shortly after turning off the Otley Road, Monica had a puncture, but it was swiftly dealt with in an exemplary team effort, with Terry taking the main role. From there it was virtually all 'downhill with a following wind' along Brackenthwaite Lane and back to Burn Bridge, whence we made our own ways back. About 28 windy, hilly miles. Joe

Medium Plus Touring Pace Ride Report

11 set off and I know 4 got back. We split at Spofforth to avoid the presumed muddy railway track, and rejoined at the cafe stop. Brian said he came out as it sounded an interesting ride, but he left us at the cafe shed at Thorpe Underwood. None of the gents there understood the defra instructions about their dorsums, leaving me still alive to look it up on oed.com. Hope defra advice on bse etc is more useful. We then stayed on the prescribed route without being blown too far off the roads and the tail enders probably did exactly 45 miles while the others added an other 5 by using the closed road through to Bishop Monkton. In spite of the wind and debris only 1 locked brake and no punctures on a mild sunny day made for an other good ride. Richard

Medium Plus Ride Report

Eight of us set off with fears of blustery day and found the wind behind us pretty much all the way to Rudgate. Here we met Darren who was the herald of bad weather further down the road. True enough it was a little harder once we approached Thorpe Underwood. The cafe stop proved too much for the waitresses. Waitress number one got confused and sent waitress two to take everyone's order again. Waitress two didn't do much better as two steaming plates of scrambled eggs were sent out. Yep, nobody ordered them! Can you possibly hear "scone with jam" as "scrambled egg"? Apparently you can! The feared headwind wasn't as bad as feared and speedy progress was made back home. 9 x 41 miles, great ride, great company, dodgy cafe service! Steve B

Long Ride Report

Six brave souls set off from Hornbeam Park to tackle Lofthouse in the extremely windy conditions. The group set off to Ripon via Knaresborough and Bishop Monkton. All was going well until we escaped the protection of the buildings and terrain around Ripon. Once we were heading for Galphay the wind became a problem and we knew we were in for trouble when we had to cycle down all the hills. The weather forecast stated that the winds would abate during the morning. Unfortunately, nobody had

told the wind this was how it should behave. We eventually made our way to Masham and stopped for refreshments. On leaving Masham the group naturally divided between those with mountain goat ancestry and the others. The climb over Lofthouse was a mixture of brilliant sun shine accompanied by huge gusts of wind. The group reformed at Lofthouse village, with the exception of Phil who headed back to Harrogate, and then it was off to Pateley for tea and cakes. Given the arduous conditions experienced by all riders it was agreed that we would return to Harrogate via Glasshouses and the main road. Well done to all those who took part in this strenuous ride. Total Mileage $6 \times 58 = 348$
Peter J

2011 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 1831 YTD 164519



