

Sunday, January 8, 2012  
**Wheel Easy Ride Report 297**



What a good start to 2012, several new members and nearly 60 turning out for today's excellent choice of rides. A short 15 mile ride, a hilly 30 mile ride to Brimham, a 35 miler over the moors to Askwith, 50 miler to Langbar and Ilkley and 55 miles to Hebden and Bolton Abbey. Many thanks to all our leaders who guide us all round the routes and to excellent cafes. Gia

#### Short Ride Report

Three for the short ride today, David, new rider Paul and me. Route 3 in reverse - Follifoot, Spofforth, Little Ribston, Knaresborough. It was dry, visibility was good, and so mild we sat outside at the Waterside Café. Arguably the best tea cakes of any Wheel Easy pit stop and spotless toilets, it was reported. Even That Hill out of Knaresborough didn't seem so bad. Many thanks for the excellent company, a great start to 2012. Justin

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## Medium Ride Report

With 22 opting for the medium ride Terry's group of 8 oysters shot off first. The 14 whelks started with a mini-tour of Nether Bilton then on to Hampsthwaite, there to be joined by at Knox Farm by Debbie who had initially linked up with the oysters only to discover that she was, indeed, a whelk. The long crawl up to the entrance to Brimham Rocks was rewarded by the fact that the caff was shut. Hooray! Dontcha just hate dragging your bike up there. So, after a rethink we headed to Ripley, leaving Alan and new gel Rachael at the Drovers to head to Knaresborough. Seven stopped at the Cafe, the rest travelling home for lunch/footy on telly/etc. The leader then abandoned the other six at the cafe, but only after sorting out Roman Catholicism vs Greek Orthodoxy (more bells, more smells), Evelyn Waugh and Abyssinia. Wheel Easy - for cycling and intellectual pursuits. Paul B

Seven oysters as Paul called them set off in the direction of Brimham Rocks including 2 new riders, John and Michiel both of them good riders. I always struggle to find my way to Knox bridge so the first mile included 7 cyclists doing a full rotation of a roundabout much to the amusement of a lady waiting to negotiate the roundabout in the correct manner. We were joined at Knox by Debbie but then when we got to Hampsthwaite she refused to travel any further with us and decided to wait for the other medium group and Max also abandoned us at this point so we were down to 6. Clint Bank was the first hill of the day which showed Michiel that riding around Harrogate is slightly different to his native Holland from where he moved 6 years ago but I think his English is actually better than mine. The next long drag up to Brimham Rocks was taken at a fairly brisk pace as was the long down hill to the T junction where we turned right up towards the Drovers cross roads and then left to Markington. Steve Price inherited the lead role for a while at this point because after a long and involved discussion regarding one of the most important ride features (the coffee break) we all went with Steve's recommendation of the Garden centre at the side of the A61 which was very nice. We took a variation on the route from here by going to Bishop Monkton then straight across the crossroads and up to the bridle path that brings you back to Copgrove. At the cross roads above Farnham John bid us farewell and set off back home to Wetherby where he had ridden from to get to Hornbeam before he did the ride with us, but he did say that he had enjoyed the ride and that he would be back for more. That just left 4 of us to ride up Harrogate hill. When I stopped at the bus stop at the top I was pleasantly surprised to find Michiel was only just behind me, a very enjoyable ride which hopefully brought 2 new members. 34 x 6 Many thanks, Terry

## Medium Plus Touring Pace Ride Report

Eighteen of us chose not to tackle Jill's Hills today but not avoiding hills all together we rode out to Little Almscliff and Fewston. Sadly Sue had a puncture near Whinney Lane, later on Julie T succumbed to one certainly as a result of hedge cutting at Castley. As usual our gallant men came to the rescue. The views today were good and long, with patches of sunshine which we saw in the distance. We met Harrogate Harriers at Fewston who were completing a seven mile run round Swinsty and Fewston. On and up over the moor to Askwith where we all arrived at Cockpit Farm as another large group from Leeds were just leaving. As we left another group arrived. Great timing. Great ride, good company and well done to Sally who completed her first ride with the medium plus group and of course to those on their first ride on 2012.

Thanks to Martin for leading one of the groups. Gia

### Medium Plus Ride Report

On a unseasonably mild January morning, where real men wore shorts, seven riders set off for Jill's Hills.....minus Jill. Langbar was the ultimate destination as we set off, with various tales of what cycling adventures we were planning to get up to in the New Year were swapped amongst the group. The climb up Little Snowdon never gets any easier no matter how many times you attempt it, but then it is more than made up for by the swift descent into Askwith. With a screeching of brakes, we found the turning right for Langbar and started the climb up. And up. And up. This was a first for most of the group, (apart from hill veterans Geoff and Mike) and what a great climb it was, not too steep, with fantastic views all around, and how lucky we were that there was very little wind to contend with. With another great swooping descent to follow, we then turned left for the café stop in Ilkley, whereupon tales of woe about the fortunes of the great Darlo, were told by The Kaiser, and Darren was told by Julie (yes, I am naming and shaming you Jules!) "you look a bit like Mark Cavendish".....i will never hear the end of it. Off we sped back toward Otley with Cav, sorry, Darren leading the way at a decent pace alongside the river and up the climb to Weeton, and the long drag through Kirkby Overblow, where we turned tight and time trialled it back to Rudding and home.

Big well done to Julie, who was fantastic on her first long(ish) ride on a Sunday for ages, I believe she is normally a Wednesdayite, and there is nothing wrong with that! Fantastic ride, approx 53 miles for most of us, 60 plus for The Boz! Mark (formerly known as Cav)

### Long Ride Report

It was a fine day for early January as everyone gathered at Hornbeam. As we got to Pennypot Lane a stronger than expected headwind became apparent &

we were then battling with this all the way to Hebden. Just after Greenhow we lost Eric to a broken chain & he had to be rescued (after a long cold wait!) by car. The Old School

Tearooms which was our destination turned out to be closed until later in the month so it was off to Burnsall instead. This led to a slight change to the homeward route as we took the B road back to Bolton Abbey for speed instead of going back via Appletreewick. We then had the benefit of a following wind to assist us on the way home. After Bolton Abbey there was a split as the faster group headed off. Arrived back in Harrogate shortly after 3.30pm after approximately 58 miles. Jill



