

Sunday, June 10, 2012

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 319



### Short Ride Report

Ten for the short ride today. Welcome to Helen and Clare, beginning preparations for an Alpine adventure in July. We took a chance on it staying dry - it did - and opted for a 17 mile ride. Follifoot, Spofforth, Little Ribston and Abbey Road. Four left at Low Bridge, leaving six for coffee at the Waterside. A very enjoyable ride. Many thanks to Sarah for back marking. Justin

### Medium Ride Report

A good turnout for the medium rides, so my fellow leader, Caroline, decided to reverse the ride for her group, and start at the finish so to speak. We expected to pass her group half way round( ish) but we never saw them again, where were you Caroline? I look forward to your report. Anyway our group of 13(unlucky?) started out behind the long ride contingent. We let them disappear up the road, while we headed for Burn Bridge. Ahead of us could be seen a lone cyclist who we picked up at the A61 junction. I was ready to bribe her to join our group to make it 14, when I realised it was our

SueT, who had gone a different way, so no money changed hands. We had two or three new members in our group, which was nice, and they had no problem keeping up with the rest of us. Welcome aboard Lorna, and the other two who must remain nameless, as I didn't realise they were new members until we split up at the end. In Wetherby we had a committee meeting at the end of the cycle path, to decide whether to have a cafe stop or not. With one eye on the weather we decided to carry on, 7 went back to Knaresborough the rest to Harrogate on the Spofforth cycle path. Here we met charity cyclists coming towards us in all shapes and sizes, we wished them all well. When we stopped to regroup, our wise sage Dennis gave a timely reminder to ride single file on cycle paths so as not to scare children coming the other way. All please note! A very pleasant uneventful ride in the dry. John E

### Leisurely Medium Ride Report

It was not raining. It was not windy. It was grey but fine. Five people opted to follow me on a leisurely backwards way round with additions ride to Bramham... We quickly progressed to Knaresborough and on to Wetherby avoiding a swarm of bees. As we sped down the Thorp Arch Bike Path to Boston Spa, we met a large cohort of Wetherby Cyclists and took the opportunity to have a photo shoot and toilet stop in the High Street sitting area. Here we also noticed the blue clouds, bright light in the sky, and interesting grey shapes on the ground. None of Paul and Gia's stalwarts wanted to return to Wetherby the easy way and we all turned the opposite way down the A1 Bike Path to Bramham. At this point we expected to meet John E's speedy people, but obviously they had been captured by the horse fraternity of the Horse Trials. So we crossed the A1 and headed on to try and find the right route to Jewitt Lane. A passing cyclist was, much to his surprise, waylaid, so we could ask for the best way reach the glorious swoop down to Collingham, which he kindly explained to us. With the delightful downhill glide into Collingham behind us, I insisted we go to have coffee and cake in Wetherby!!!!!! As we headed to the market square we were once again mingling with Wetherby Bikers and their marshals who kept telling us how well we were doing. After a pleasant cup of something, scones, toast or carrot cake, the group returned to Harrogate via the Harland Way to Spofforth, Follifoot and a very crafty corner cut off through Rudding. Despite the red lights at the bottom of the hill to the Traveller's Rest everyone insisted on speeding up that hill and the Showground hill on the homeward stretch. Thank you very much to all involved. I for one thoroughly enjoyed myself. 35.5 miles at 9.78 mph. CG

### Medium Plus Ride Reports

Weather forecast not too bad, cloudy with rain late afternoon. There were quite a number of riders for the Medium Plus ride, leaders being Liz P for a slower ride, Dave P (not related) for a touring speed ride and, as yet no leader for the super swift riders (of which Wheel Easy has now quite a few). The tourers and the swifties headed for Low Bridge for finalised grouping. The fast group were put in charge of Alec and Darren (fresh from his pushing a bed round Knaresborough then jumping in the River Nidd, MAD, I know I have done it). The fast fast or super swift group in charge of Pete Loker. Away they went followed by Dave P's group comprising Bill, Dave W, Helen, John, Monica, Rachel, Roy and Steve picking up Ian and Ruth at Farnham, then on to Boroughbridge. Here some of the EG's bikes had to be brought under control as they automatically head for a cafe, with Boroughbridge safely bypassed it as on to the two Sessay's and Carlton Husthwaite at a good pace before hitting the short steep climb before entering Coxwold. The School House tea room (garden) was quite full, but Pete's fast group was just leaving, with Alec and Darren's group still eating. A worry had been that the tea rooms might not be able to cope with the numbers of Wheel Easy riders descending on them, and when Liz P's group arrived we had taken over the whole of the garden. (See photo.) But credit to the staff we were served very quickly and the food was good. Then it was on to Husthwaite and the fast downhill to Easingwold, on to Alne and Aldwark Bridge, with a banana break taken at Branton Green, on to Arkendale, Farnham, Knaresborough and Harrogate for around 3-30pm, missing the rain. An excellent ride, quite fast, with experienced riders of a similar level of fitness making it a pleasure to lead. Around 55/56 miles. Best wishes to Monica on her one mile open water swim (don't forget the photo). Dave P.

Five riders did the ride to Coxwold at a slightly slower pace, enjoying the ever nearer views of the white horse. On arrival at the tea gardens at Coxwold we found the garden full of Wheel Easy clothing (and their occupants!) enjoying everything from bacon butties to cream teas. The staff did a wonderful job serving with a cafe also full of people visiting Coxwold open gardens. The return journey involved a wrong turn in Husthwaite and an extra tour round an Easingwold housing estate but also a view of the Lancaster bomber accompanied by a spitfire. About 57 miles, fortunately arriving home just before the heavy rain. Liz

### Long Ride Reports

Nine of us were tempted by Peter Jackson's long ride, but perhaps our eyes were too big for our pedals and we cut out several loops and hills!

We didn't entirely avoid the hills, which is difficult when heading out to Wharfedale. The run up to Stumps Cross was enjoyable for the fact that there

was no wind and we enjoyed a good café stop. Here we plotted not to ride to Embsay but head to Barden, Bolton Abbey, Beamsley where our "titular" leader only had cause to shout at one driver! On to Ilkley and Askwith where we had our second café stop at Cockpit Farm. Not to be outdone with hill climbing we went back to climb out of Askwith and home via the reservoirs where the rain finally caught up with us, but home in time for tea. 55 hilly miles in great company. Gia

A small but totally dedicated group set off on the Long Ride route to cycle at a steady touring pace. The dedication, it soon became clear, was more to views, photos, chat and the inevitable tea, coffee and cake stops. Despite a problematic start with mechanicals Dave and Malcolm caught us up at Stump Cross cafe. After taking our fill we were soon heading down Wharfedale having opted for the sybaritic shorter route past Cavendish Pavilion, and then down to Ilkley. A further stop at Cockpit farm made for jolly end to the food festival, before we climbed back up from Askwith to Timble and then over the moors to Beckwithshaw and home. Eight riders did 55 hilly miles ( and put on weight!). Martin W

Initially it looked as if there would be no takers for the long ride, but as the crowds dispersed the eight riders prepared to undertake the long ride were revealed. The long ride promptly set off and immediately clashed with the medium ride but the long ride was given priority. The ride proceeded at a steady pace enjoying the light winds and dry conditions. On leaving Beckwithshaw we spotted a lone rider and on further investigation it proved to be Paul Tindle. After some initial badinage Paul decided to show us a clean pair of heels and overtook the all the riders. But we long riders always play the long game and eventually reeled him in by the time we reached Little Alms Cliff. At Menwith Hill Roger S caught up with us as he had been late in arriving at Hornbeam and had been chasing us all the way from Harrogate. When we arrived at the cafe in Burnsall everyone was prepared with their orders and we were served with such speed that it surprised everyone. It seemed as everyone had ordered beans on toast and when the plates arrived the beans were practically flowing over the edge of the plates. Then it was off to do some gruelling hill climbing i.e. Embassy, Draughton and Silsden. When we reached the point where riders could take the easier return ride Peter R was press ganged by the others into staying with group and stick to the original ride route. Everyone agreed that the climbs were hard work but were reward with marvellous views of the moors and the surrounding landscape. On the run down from the Chevin into Otley a stray water bottle caused some consternation to some of the following riders. The ride returned to Harrogate via Castley and Kirkby Overblow which involved dodging the rain

showers after a gloriously warm day. Well done to all those that took part in the Silsden Special. Peter J



