

Sunday, August 26, 2012
Wheel Easy Ride Report 330



Short Ride Report

Nine of us headed off for the Showground cycle paths for a circuit of Harrogate and Knaresborough using cyclepaths and back lanes. Among the nine were several new or newish riders and it was a delight to see that they were all able to keep a steady pace to match their enthusiasm. Soon we were on Waterside at Knaresborough and then we took to the back lanes off Chain Lane, eventually crossing Boroughbridge Road and briefly stopping to have a look at the newest Knaresborough Park off Scriven lane - Jacob Smith Park. This was followed by a visit to the cafe at Henshaw's Centre where the coffee was good but sadly not matched by the scones - an email is going in to recommend improvements! Then a sturdy climb back up to Harrogate along the Beryl Burton Way, Bilton and back to Hornbeam Park. 15 miles in the good company of 9 riders. Thanks to Dave P for back-marking with a sunny smile. Martin W.

Medium Ride Report

There were 26 for the Medium Ride today. Sue T and to Dennis kindly offered to lead groups, leaving your correspondent with ten opting for a relaxed ride to Bishop Monkton and Boroughbridge, on Wheel Easy Route 17. The downbeat version of the report would focus on a puncture on Hookstone Drive (many thanks to Malcolm for staying behind to mend it), my group breaking into three, and yet another cold August morning. But the sun came out, Bishop Monkton is fabulous, and the hills, such as they were, were served up in small doses. Malcolm and Gaye arrived for coffee at Boroughbridge at the same time as three of us from the original ten, and we found Sue T's group at the Old Foundry. Linda opted to come back with us, and so six rode to Aldborough, Grafton, Marton, Arkendale and Knaresborough, where we said goodbye to new-ish riders Kathy and Maggie. Thanks to all for a very enjoyable ride. Justin

A bit of a chilly start to today's medium ride. Two groups were formed, a slower group lead by Sue T (thanks Sue) and a slightly faster one by the main ride leader. We all set for a lovely ride to Boroughbridge where we hit our first puncture of the day. We then split into three groups before getting to Bishop Monkton where we then split into four groups. Five of us picked up the pace to Roecliffe and Boroughbridge where we stopped for coffee and cake and chat. Home via Arkendale and 32 miles and remarkable good company. Darren

Medium Plus Ride Report

Somehow in volunteering to lead this ride I inflated its length to Medium ++, with a cafe stop in Grassington - which must mean a 60 mile round trip at least. In consultation with the 16 riders, we shortened it and finally came in at about 52. As an alternative route to Stump Cross Caverns than the often travelled drag via Menwith, we rode via Knox Bridge, Hampsthwaite, Birstwith, Darley then across the Menwith-Dacre road along Low Lane to Thornthwaite and Padside and then joined Duck Street at the Stone House Inn. The height gain is the same (obviously) but the uphill are a little steeper and the road much quieter and prettier. For a change, Duck Street was quite pleasant with a reduced car speed limit due to loose chippings and no noticeable headwind. Two riders returned from Greenhow, the rest pressed on via Stump Cross and then left to Skryehome and the Appletreewick-Barden road. We took the cafe stop in the re-vamped Cavendish Pavilion where there was ample outside seating and reasonably priced vittals (in the author's humble opinion). The Beamsley-Otley road brought us quickly back to Cockpit Farm cafe where 10 riders stopped for 'afternoon tea' and 4 continued the ride via Otley, Lindley uphill along Pill

White Lane (how did it get that name ?), Stainburn and then downhill along Briscoe Ridge and Brackenthwaite Lanes to Burn Bridge. I know Will, David, Ernie and I reached the end of the ride, hopefully the others left the charms of Cockpit Farm and enjoyed the final hills as much as we did. A pleasant ride to lead on a mostly dry day. Peter L

Long Ride Report

7 of us enjoyed one of the classic routes, cycling to Otley via Kirkby Overblow, Weeton and Poole, then through Ilkley and Bolton Abbey to Burnsall for a cafe stop. We fuelled up on beans, cakes, etc before riding through Appletreewick and then tackling the long climb out of Skyreholme. We paused for breath at the top and then more climbs up past Stump Cross to Greenhow. The pace now really picked up as we hurtled down Duck Street and soon afterwards went our separate ways home to Harrogate and Knaresborough. Loads of cyclists out as usual on this route and as Jill pointed out , more than the usual quota of younger riders-possibly inspired by Bradley Wiggins and co? Approx 65 miles at a good average speed of about 15mph.. Geoff



