

Sunday, May 12, 2013

Wheel Easy Ride Report 367

Acorn Ride (Saturday 11th May)

About 30 Wheel Easy members took part in the annual Acorn ride which is a 100km ride starting at Bishop Monkton. For some this was their first Acorn ride and all rode it successfully, enjoying the ride, the erratic weather, the refreshment stops and the great organisers of this ride. Well done to everyone and of course to our eldest member whose wife assured us that he wouldn't be cycling the event this year. When tackled on this he said his hearing was too bad to have heard! Gia



Short Ride

18 riders chose the short ride today including some who had ridden the Acorn yesterday. Kevin described the route for us and with a couple of additional miles we followed the course. New for some and very refreshing to do a ride the other way round which not sure we have done for a very long time. Who can remember returning on a ride along Abbey Road? Excellent café stop at Marigold's on Waterside where some of us enjoyed the warmth of their new woodburning stove and good coffee. Well done to newcomer Andy now equipped with a new bike who led us up some of the hills. Thank you Kevin for the excellent route. Gia



Medium Measured Ride

This was a new Medium route for all six of us – new member Mary, Chris, Ruth, Sue, Max and me. We headed eastish along familiar roads, via Farnham and Arkendale, with visibility good enough to see the White Horse on the ridge of the North York Moors in the far distance. Then we tacked out onto new-to-us roads, via Aldwark Toll Bridge, Aldwark and Flawith. The star of the show was Myton Hall, at Marton-on-Swale, a magnificent late 17th Century country house set in extensive parkland. On to Helperby and then, as the skies darkened, stretches head-on into the wind and the first of a few showers, before we reached Tasty Snacks in Boroughbridge. After our old-school pit stop – this wasn't a day for healthy options, and Tasty Snacks don't really go in for them anyway – it was back home via Minskip and Staveley. A terrific route, around 40 miles. Let's put it in the calendar again soon. Many thanks to Max for back marking. Justin



Medium Faster Ride

Foolishly I thought a nice medium ride would be just the antidote to the Acorn ride...sadly I ended up leading one of the groups who had clearly had their Weetabix this morning. We headed out to Aldwark (via the lovely church) and as we were all doing so well, we decided to add some extra mileage and go to Beningbrough Hall. Lovely bacon sandwiches but be warned they don't do toasties until 11.30am now! We retraced our steps and then hit the wind and rain heading into Boroughbridge. A quick stop at Morrisons for hot tea and cake and then back home to Harrogate in the wind. Thanks to everyone for a good ride of around 52 miles - a bit longer than advertised! Rachael

Medium Plus Ride

Six riders set off in the sedate group, soon to be joined by David W, who preferred a pace which allowed for taking in the delights of Spring – the chilly breeze, the fading daffs. We lost Dan (to choir duties?) at Leathley, motored on to the blue bells of Farnley Hall. At Askwith, Jill (who has the honour of giving her name to this lovely route) and Bill left us for domestic duties. The remaining 4 continued on, enjoying the scent of wild garlic, (sadly passing a horse that had collapsed and died mid ride). The ascent of Beamsley Beacon and Moor gave us the appetite for hot drinks and fodder in Ilkley. The unanimous decision of the team was to enjoy the climb to Askwith and home via Fewston Reservoir. (4 riders at 47 miles, 2 at 25 ish and 1 at 10 – total 248 miles). Sarah

Medium Plus Faster Ride

With the forecast suggesting that the weather would deteriorate as the day progressed the plan was to get as far into the ride as possible before taking a break which would also help us avoid a costly trip to the cafés in Ilkley. Taking a stiffer route out of Harrogate than normal, this plan appeared to be in jeopardy as Cockpit Café looked rather inviting the first time we passed it, but we headed for the hills regardless. There was a bit of light rain to cope with on the higher ground but not enough to force us to put our jackets on or stop the relentless climbing. We did however decide to take a shortcut after Langbar as our one and only café stop was beginning to look some distance away by then and we were desperately in need of sustenance. Post ride note: on closer inspection as I type this report and check my Garmin we have actually stuck to the official 'Jill's hills' route. Finally we reached Cockpit café and managed to squeeze ourselves inside as it was busy coping with other cycling groups, arriving and departing with regular frequency. Steve decided to head back to Harrogate via Askwith and managed to persuade one brave soul to join him. The remaining five made our way back to Otley then onto Harrogate along quiet roads through Castley and Dunkeswick and finally up to Kirby Overblow. Jill's hills did not disappoint and by the end a weary group had covered 52 miles and 3,000ft of climbing by my calculations. Thanks to everyone today particularly those with local and previous knowledge of

parts of the route whose directions proved more reliable than those I had taped to my handlebars. Martyn B.

Long Ride

Eight riders set off from Hornbeam Park heading towards Masham in the bright sunshine. After carefully negotiating the newly surfaced-dressed roads we made our way to Masham via Hampsthwaite, Bishop Thornton, Fountains and Grewelthorpe. Phil S and Peter R having just returned from Majorca were full of energy and led most of the way to Masham accompanied by Bob. On leaving Masham we headed for Fearby and then on to Ellingstring to arrive at the main road just south of Jervaulx. At this point we appear to have lost a rider, namely Ian. It would appear the Ian was in the second part of the group when he decided to chase some competitors in a sportive. Although PCJ was waiting at Fearby to ensure everyone turned right Ian must have shot past in the sportive peloton. The ride then continued towards Thorton Watless and then to Snape and Cowthorpe. We were dogged with rain showers which meant stopping and starting to put on rain gear. Phil S's saddle came adrift and so did Peter R's saddle bag. We then headed for Spa Gardens cafe for some well-deserved refreshments and then it was back to Harrogate. Peter J

Addendum to Long Ride

On leaving Masham I found myself at the back of our group had become strung out over a few hundred yards. At this point we were overtaken by some racierly fellows. I turned to Glynn and said "I'm jumping on the back here to get a lift to the front of our group".

After a few miles at this quickish pace I began to wonder why we hadn't caught up with the guys at the front of our group, in fact, looking down a long hill there was no sign of them at all. It dawned on me that they had either stopped or turned off. I turned around and headed back towards Masham but they were nowhere to be seen and the problem was that I had no idea where they were heading. So I took the B6108 into Ripon where, feeling it would be a cop-out to ride straight back to Harrogate (this was, after all the long ride), I cycled home via Boroughbrdge and Bishop Monkton. Ian N