

Sunday, June 23, 2013

Wheel Easy Ride Report 373

Short Ride Report

Rob, who was returning to cycling for the first time this year, joined me on the fifteen mile ride. As he had not been along The Greenway we headed that direction. Approaching Malcolm's statue I slowed down but failed to mention this to Rob who went into the back of me and came off his bike. I'm sure the statue had an accusing look which said 'Your days of ride leader are over'. Fortunately Rob was OK so we continue to Ripley and through Hollybank Woods towards Hampsthwaite where Sophie saw me ride past without stopping for a coffee. That was my second mistake of the day! We continued back into Harrogate via Jennyfields with Rob promising to cycle more to regain his fitness. Thanks for a good ride Rob! Paul

Medium Ride Report

Considering the dreadful weather forecast and expecting heavy rain at 11am, the 3 leaders devised a cunning plan to cut short the advertised ride to Ripon and turn off instead at Boroughbridge. Liz set off first with a larger, faster group, leaving 6 of us to proceed at a more leisurely pace, enjoying the still sunny weather. With perfect timing, we arrived at Morrison's cafe just as the heavens were about to open. We indulged in some mild gloating about the success of our plan, until we discovered that Liz's group had already forged on to Ripon and were sitting in the sun at Spa Gardens! Returning to Farnham, still without getting wet, we felt shamed by the fast group's determination, into doing an extra 'mystery loop' and newish members Sylvia and Andy proved themselves more than capable of tackling a medium ride. At this point, Caroline and Jane craftily decided to avoid Knaresborough hill, by heading for Killinghall. Thanks to Justin for back marking and support. 27 miles and waterproof trousers not even tested! Sue W.

Sue W, Justin and I were the designated leaders for the medium group who were given a choice of slow, slow or slow ride! Somehow I was volunteered to lead a slightly faster group so yet again the leadership was from the back! At Low Bridge the group reached fourteen in number as we headed off to Farnham (where there is a wonderful poppy field), Copgrove, Roecliffe and Boroughbridge. With the dire weather forecast we had assumed heavy rain would send us back home from Boroughbridge but it was still dry so the decision was made to head to Ripon. As we crossed under the A1(M) we were forced to stop and shelter from a heavy downpour. It was a noisy stopping place but certainly dry! As it eased off we could see blue sky ahead and by the time we reached Skelton the sun was shining. Three people left us for an early return from Littlethorpe though one was muttering about looking for a Bull! The rest of us headed for Spa Gardens cafe and sat outside enjoying the sunshine, conversation and food. Return was via Bishop Monkton and Knaresborough and I think everyone would get home dry. Thank you James for being an excellent bark marker and welcome to guests Charlotte and Ian from Berkshire. About 37 miles. Liz





Medium Plus Ride Report

There was a small turn-out on a blustery morning at Hornbeam. This was fortunate because Rachael, my co-leader couldn't make it and, unusually, the medium plus ride set off with only eight riders. When Paul announced the medium plus ride, he described it as 'hilly'. To this we would add 'windy'. It was one of those rides where, whichever way we rode, it appeared to be into the teeth of a gale. On one occasion, battling over the top of a hill, we were lashed with a short, sharp shower of horizontal rain. Outside Cockpit farm a meeting was convened. Should we proceed to Askwith, then on to Ilkley and back, or should we forego the Ilkley leg? The unanimous decision was that Ilkley wasn't worth flogging against the wind for (sorry about that Ilkley) so we headed into the tea room. Surprisingly, the place was empty so we were quickly tucking into a range of comestibles. Then, carrying the additional weight of our coffee stop, we climbed the lumpy hill to Timble, dropping down past the reservoirs. For the first time we had the wind at our backs and flew over Stainburn Moor. Here, a quick glance behind us showed that we had been fortunate in escaping the rain – black clouds were hovering behind us....and the descent to Beckwithshaw! Ian N.



Long Ride Report

Only four riders started the Long Ride and given the weather forecast of heavy showers and strong winds, this was not surprising. We made steady progress to Ripon and then onto Kirk Malzeard via Galphay, despite the strong headwind. At Kirkby Malzeard we were joined by Peter R who had set off from home with the intention of meeting us on the way to Masham; good job we stuck to the original route. The ride from Masham to Lofthouse was a mixture of strong winds, bright sunshine, and light rain as we reached the top of the climbs. Once we were down in the valley and on our way to Pateley Bridge it was bright sunshine and the wind was behind us. The ride back to Harrogate was very speedy as the wind continued to be behind us all the way. Peter J





Away Day from Richmond Ride Report

The weather men had been confidently predicting a cold, wet, windy day for Sunday, with the emphasis on rain so we were fully expecting to have a romantic day out for two. Fortunately Sarah C soon arrived, followed by Paul B and then, unexpectedly, our friend Pete D (a walking pal from Wetherby) also arrived. That was it, a select bunch of five. The sun was shining and it felt warm as we had a rapid change of clothing and headed up the first steep climb of the day. The warmth and sunshine continued all the way through Gayles, Newsham and Barningham (taking in the local sights) with a firm steady wind before us. Further layers of clothing were removed in anticipation of the major climb of the day, "The Stang" up on to Hope Moor. The joy of struggling up was surpassed by the joy of the undulating, then long descent in to Reeth, where Keith recorded a max speed of 41.8 mph. We had earned a café stop and five of us did not put an undue strain on the staff. It was so good that Helen and Sarah went for the bacon and chicken combo and felt too fat to move afterwards. Stuff the 5:2 fasting diet! "Malheureusement", there were some pretty stiff hills straight after Reeth, so expressions like "serves you right" were heard. By Marske, all stomachs had settled down and there were no takers for the slightly easier option of the direct route back to Richmond on the main road. This meant another epic climb, aided by a following wind but well worth the effort for the final ridge run and descent with views over to the Cleveland Hills and the whole of the Vale of York. Throughout the day we could see towering, bright white cumulo nimbus clouds and high lenticulars streaking across a forget-me-not blue sky, with hardly a hint of rain. Finally Richmond Castle hove in to view and we dropped straight in to the car park. Pete and Sarah get the prize for not getting off on a single hill and Paul B felt certain that, at some point in the future, he would be grateful for this invaluable training for his imminent Lancastrian Ride. 33 strenuous, quality miles in stunning terrain with much fun and laughter. Helen & Keith

