

Sunday, September 29, 2013

Wheel Easy Ride Report 387

Medium Ride Report

Thirty riders divided themselves obediently into three groups, the faster ones speeding off with Paul and Liz, the remainder taking a more leisurely pace to Knaresborough. After a disrobing stop at Ferrensby, as the sun was becoming pleasantly warm, we made our way to Boroughbridge via Arkendale and the Dunsforths. A committee decision was made to stop for coffee at Morrison's, where a scrummage ensued for the last prawn sandwich; Dave being very gentlemanly shared it with Caroline. Jane and Kevin left us at Roecliffe to take a short cut ; at Bishop Monkton Caroline had the excellent idea of returning via Markington and the Greenway (not at all to avoid Knaresborough hill!). After an impromptu exercise class, everyone made it up the hill out of Markington and from then on it was flat all the way home. Well done to Sue, Caroline, Di and Sarah, who were not expecting quite so many miles (39)! Thanks to Dave for back marking. Sue W





Faced with 36 noisy medium riders at Hornbeam this morning, for a moment I forgot where I was and raised my hand. Amazingly, with a bit of prompting by Jill J, silence descended within seconds! Paul B took the faster group, Sue W the slow group leaving me with a group of twelve medium medium riders. We followed the route through Knaresborough and Arkendale in quite a compact group for Wheel Easy but then we did have Peter B as a very efficient back marker. Pausing for a photo shoot in Upper Dunsforth we soon reached Boroughbridge where Jeremy directed us into the back garden of Gilchrists. There we were served hot drinks and a wonderful array of cakes. However Max, if you publish the photo of my fat rascal I will sue! Onward through Roecliffe and towards Bishop Monkton where Matthew hit a pothole and flew through the air in an acrobatic formation. Fortunately he got away with cuts and bruises though unfortunately for the ladies he declined all offers of nursing! Hope you are not too sore Matthew. At Burton Leonard Peter B offered to lead us through the Mountgarret estate as a deviation from the route. Eleven riders voted to avoid Knaresborough hill and the twelfth just likes winding me up! So we had a lovely finish among all the people enjoying the Greenway. As we split up at the Dragon railway bridge Max fell off his bike so hope he is all right too. 36 miles and a lovely sunny ride. Liz P



Half of Harrogate turned out for the Medium today so we split into three groups. The first lost a chain at the Wetherby Rd lights allowing the second to catch up, inducing slight confusion until Liz reined her lot in. It was a grand day for cycling as we made our way (a bit too fast at first), to Farnham and through the Dunsfields to the caff in Boroughbridge (Malcolm's lot choosing to go up market). We regrouped after refreshments to return via Roecliff and Bishop Monkton, with a change of plan to divert via the Mountgarret Estate, Nidd, Ripley (where we met up with three rebels from the Medium Plus group) and the Greenway. Malcolm was back marker and we only lost one - Dave P - in the badlands of Burton Leonard. Knowing that he was old enough to look after himself we sped on. However, if anyone sees him please remind him that he's still got my nail scissors (don't ask). A welcome to new bugs Maggie and Charlie, who we hope to see again.
Paul B



Medium-Plus Ride Report

Fourteen of us set off from Hornbeam followed by a small, very select group determined to keep a steady pace. The day was glorious with a brisk breeze from the west which we expected to fling us off the side of the hill when we reached Dacre Banks. But this was not to be, there was little wind at the top and we were able to enjoy wide, 360° views before dropping down York's Folly for a coffee stop at the cattle market. For those who are not familiar with the cattle market, let me inform you that this is the lowest priced tea room in Yorkshire. I paid two Pounds for a mug of tea and a plate of biscuits! We were able to enjoy our refreshments in the open air before departing up the steep driveway for Smelthouses. At the top of the driveway we were treated to the spectacle of two riders falling from a standing start. We slogged up the hills through Smelthouses, past Brimham Rocks and dropped like stones down to Ripley where a democratic decision was made to avoid the logjam which is the Greenway on a Sunday and return to Harrogate via Knox Mill. Final observation: the ride calendar stated, I think, 55 miles for the ride. While the hills may have lead us to feel that we had cycled 55 miles, the computers don't lie and the distance is closer to 35 miles. Most of us were home shortly after one o'clock, giving time for a shower before viewing the men's world championships. Ian N



Sue, Sarah and Gia quickly realised that we were not up to the pace of the group setting off for Pateley so we waved them off agreeing to meet at Tea Cups. Clearly we were then in our own little world enjoying the wonderful scenery, the sunshine and the company. This must surely account for us cutting out a nice chunk of the ride and taking a more direct route to Yorke's Folly. We met with the group of fourteen at Tea Cups where we had excellent value tea cakes, tea, coffee and fruit bread. We hope we followed the correct route home, enjoyed seeing a group of llamas being led along the road, a wonderful display of winter crocuses and meeting a group of medium riders in Ripley who had probably ridden more miles than us! Fabulous ride, great views, great hills and excellent company. Gia M



Long Ride Report

An almost perfect autumn day with just a strong easterly wind to make some stretches a little more challenging. There were ten people for the long ride today for what turned out to be a very pleasant, but uneventful ride. We headed out via the familiar route to Boroughbridge, Sessay & Bagby while after Felixkirk there were some new roads for some riders. Reaching Northallerton soon after midday we had our first café stop before heading back via Newby Wiske, Kirby Wiske & Thirsk. There was a second café stop at Boroughbridge although three people continued on without stopping. It was then a steady ride home after approx. 80 miles in great company. Jill F

