

Sunday, November 3, 2013

Wheel Easy Ride Report 392

Short Ride Report

My group of eleven riders set off from Hornbeam down Hookstone and then through the show ground to Rudding Lane. On regrouping we found we were three riders missing: Jo, Susan and Dave. Jean kindly went to look for them but returned empty handed. Geraldine phoned Jo who told her they were on their way to Knaresborough. Either I didn't shout out my route loudly enough or they hadn't listened. We arranged to meet them at Follifoot but only Jo and Susan arrived. Dave where were you? Hope you are not still riding round looking for us!! We then cycled through Follifoot to Spofforth along the Harland way to Wetherby. Disaster again - no Jo, Susan and Sue. Another phone call by Geraldine - Jo's front mudguard had been damaged and likely to fall off. We continued to our coffee stop and Jo etc joined us a little later. After our usual chatting- my group debating our education or lack of education system we then continued on our way through Kirk Deighton, Little Ribston and finally to Knaresborough where riders split up to go their separate ways home. Apart from a small shower the weather apart from the wind stayed kind to us. Approximately twenty-one miles, a little more than the designated fifteen but everyone seemed ok with this. Lynda M



Medium Ride Report

On such a blustery morning a ride to Fewston was clearly not attractive to many. So, a small group of ten set off towards Beckwithshaw. Peter took 'Team 1' to go at a steady pace. The rest of us agreed to go at a more sedate pace. Despite the fierce wind, we eventually arrived at Little Almscliffe where Peter and co were waiting. We had already decided to miss out the Timble loop, so off they sped. Max and Caroline headed off to Hampsthwaite. While James, Malcolm and I made our way to Forest Moor and then a wonderful blow along the ridge towards Hampsthwaite. Malcolm mentioned his plan to enjoy an all day breakfast at Sophie's. At Clapham Green he suddenly shot off, unable to wait any longer. James and I sauntered along until the imminent rain made us race the last stretch. Caroline and Max had decided to forgo the cafe stop to avoid the rain, but didn't quite get home in the dry. We were joined in Sophie's by Peter, Sue and Rick who had followed the suggested route, despite some trouble with gears. All in all, an enjoyable ride despite the wind. Alison N



Medium-plus Ride Report

Our group of nine made good progress to Ripley along the Greenway where we mingled with the Guy Fawkes 10k run which looked as though it was very well supported. On up to the Drovers in good sunshine but looking towards Brimham scudding grey clouds were ominous. After passing a very nervous horse we stopped at Fountains visitor centre where we watched a mini hurricane pass by, so we had made the right decision. Caution took hold and we returned via Markington, five then rode home via the Greenway with four of us adding another loop to Hampsthwaite where we stopped for a cup of tea and met up with some of the medium ride. So home warm and dry, two café stops, good ride, good company, 30 miles. Gia M

Six riders set out in very windy conditions, heading through Ripley where we had to negotiate an event organised for those unfortunates who do not own a bike and have to run instead, onward to Fountains Abbey where no-one was ready for a break yet so pressing on to Ripon and a stop at the Spa Gardens. There we got out the map and discussed what to do next, a return trip via Brimham Rocks was not popular in such a strong wind so a route home via Roecliffe and Boroughbridge was agreed upon, throwing in a couple of loops to add some miles. At Boroughbridge some were still keen for a Tour de Yorkshire but others were finding the idea of the shortest route home more appealing, during this discussion the Medium Plus Medium ride cheekily sailed past us and galvanized us into action and a decision to take the shorter route. Once back in our rightful position as the lead ride and pedaling from Minskip to Staveley directly into wind the choice of shortest route proved to be a good plan, although a couple of riders had clearly eaten three Shredded Wheat and seemed blissfully unaware of the 20 mph headwind. Back to Harrogate and the final choice, a long, slow drag via Low Bridge or a short, sharp climb up Knaresborough Hill? Knaresborough Hill won out and at the summit the ride executed a perfect starburst manoeuvre as riders split to the four points of the compass and home. Barbara D



Long Ride Report

The Long Ride started out with nine riders leaving Hornbeam, but increased to eleven by the time we had reached the A61 heading for Weardley Bank. The god of the west wind, Zephyr, appeared to have taken a dislike to the Long Ride group as no matter which way we travelled it seemed we were always cycling into a headwind. Despite this we made reasonable progress across the Chevin and took an early lunch stop at Cockpit Farm Tea Shop. At the tea shop the majority of the group turned mutinous and insisted on going over Langbar/Beamsley Beacon to Bolton Abbey. This must be the only group of riders who have insisted on doing more hills than originally planned. The wind was definitely sapping our strength, so after tackling the climbs from Cavendish Pavilion to Stump Cross a second refreshment stop was called for. The wind then abated and afforded a relatively swift return to Harrogate. Peter J.

