

Sunday, November 10, 2013

Wheel Easy Ride Report 393

A great turnout on a fabulous sunny day. But with ice on the roads all the ride leaders agreed it would not be safe to lead. However after some discussion and a strong desire to cycle several decided to set off, some straight away and others later in the morning. It turned out to be a glorious day hope everyone had a good day. Gia M

Self-led Medium Ride Reports

It was such a lovely day, crisp, with a bright blue sky, but it was also very cold. One or two members had skidded and fallen on the way to Hornbeam, so, following a discussion with the other ride leaders, we decided it was too dangerous to lead rides. One or two hardy members went off at their own risk, and Geraldine and I suggested that we could meet again at Hornbeam at 11am, when the ice had melted, and then do a shorter ride. Gia was doubtful that anyone would turn up at 11am, and it turned out she was right... Geraldine and I decided to check out the newly-resurfaced Beryl Burton, which was a great improvement. C Smith

Most of us had negotiated ice on our way to Hornbeam and we understood that the rides had to be cancelled for safety reasons. However it was a beautiful morning so a number of us set off carefully at our own risk expecting to turn back as soon as it became difficult. fifteen of us arrived at Little Almscliffe avoiding the back roads and cycle paths. Near Bland Hill there was a patch of ice and Ruth came off. She did get back on and was last heard of in Darley having tea and toast. Hope you are all right Ruth. At Pennypot lane a few riders turned for home after we paused at 11am as James tuned in his radio and we had two minutes silence. At Menwith another group set off homeward saying we would meet up at Sophie's. Now there were six who really didn't want to go home on this glorious day. Riding down into Darley the views and autumn colours were gorgeous and as we got to Hartwith we all turned left over the toll bridge and headed up Stripe Lane. A photocall was in order near the top where we could see Brimham, the White Horse and a line of power stations! Discretion made us turn right at the top as we felt that Brimham or the decent through Warsill was not sensible. We descended through Burnt Yates and down Clint Bank, finally arriving at Sophies for very welcome food and drinks. See photo of the wonderful hot chocolates! Returning homeward and still not wanting to go home we went through Killinghall and came back on the Greenway where we enjoyed seeing all the families out on their bikes. About 30 miles, necessarily at a slow pace. Still it gave James a chance to try out his brand new Spa bike! Liz P

I decided to head to some robust scenery after spending a week in Suffolk - which is a restful county with lots of sky. Ripley, Sawley, Grantley, Kirkby Malzeard and Masham for a sandwich and a seat in the sunshine. My steed decided to head for Lofthouse and on the way I saw an excellent village scarecrow which turned out to be EG Colin posing on a bench. We rode together which doubled the group size (W E record ?). At the top of Pott Moor? we looked at the scenery , the light, the colours and weather and decided it one of those great to be alive days. Down to Pateley , Colin headed for York's Folly -I followed later after a visit to daughter. The moor at the top of York Folly was another bonus. Peter B.





Self-led Medium-Plus Ride Report

A beautiful autumn morning, clear blue sky, leaves turning golden, cold with a touch of frost here and there. The medium plus ride had been declared self-led, so somehow a group of five riders seemed to naturally form to follow the medium plus route (more or less). The five, consisted of Barbara, Bash, Bill WE, Dave P, and new member David Wilson. The group then headed for Pannal, Drury Lane and the ridge route to Kirkby Overblow and Sicklinghall. This is always a route for good views but today it was particularly good, with magnificent views across the plain of York to the North York Moors and up Wharfedale, with of course no heat haze. Then on to Linton and Collingham climbing up to the ridge. A minutes silence was observed at 11.00am. In our small group of five, we had an ex-serviceman, Royal Navy, an Army Wife and a father of two Army sons. At Bramham the intention had been to take coffee at Thorpe Arch, however Bash recommended a small Italian Cafe in Boston Spa called Della/Delli ? Caffè, a good call, excellent coffee and food and a nice atmosphere.(see photo). Often passed by Dave P but never used (big mistake). Friendly chats with other customers including cyclists from York. A few laughs at our table also, especially one from Bash on a case of mistaken identity. Then North to Thorpe Arch Trading Estate and Rudgate (now back on route). With the sun on our backs and blue skies we continued to Cattal, Whixley, Thorpe Underwood, stopping for a drinks break at Branton Green, before continuing to Arkendale, Ferrensby, Knaresborough, and central Harrogate at around 2.30pm. New member David Wilson initially had been worried about hills in the Harrogate area, but after living in Oxenhope he realised they were mere pimples compared with the high Pennines. Approx mileage carpark to carpark around 45 miles. Meeting with Alison on the last mile or so, confirmed what we all felt; it had been a brilliant day for cycling. Dave P



Self-led Long Ride Report

Just in case anyone wonders what happened to the Long ride which set off first today - we reached Woodlands corner and spent five hours in the pub arriving back at Hornbeam at 3pm. Actually we had a wonderful 60 mile ride, reversing the planned route with no official leader but plenty of voices at critical points. After Woodlands we hardly saw a trace of ice - confirming Harrogate as a weather blackspot. We took the usual route to Ripon, intending a cafe stop, entirely forgetting that the War Memorial was in the cafe gardens or vice-versa, if you will. Two of the original nine departed at Ripon as we headed out towards Wath, observing our two minute silence in the sun at Hutton Conyers sans bugle. After Wath we followed some lanes less travelled towards Bedale and then a wonderful cafe just south of Newton Le Willows. It is well signposted and worth a visit. South then to Masham where two more headed off leaving a Famous Five to tackle the long hill up past Swinton Castle to Grewelthorpe, Grantley, Sawley and home. Beautiful colours in the sky, land and woods made this a wonderful ride with some great chat and good food. Well done all the non-leaders Peter L

