

Sunday, December 1, 2013

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 396

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### Short Ride Report

David's short ride to Hampsthwaite proved irresistible to a dozen of us. With the help of Joe's local knowledge we took the best route to the Greenway and into Ripley. Two or three on road bikes said they'd prefer to walk Hollybank Lane, but it proved less muddy than expected and in the end I think we all cycled almost the whole of the track. Everyone managed the steep rise to Clint Bank before sailing down to Sophie's. Geraldine, Joe and Val had other fish to fry and carried on. The rest settled down for the usual excellent fare and then returned along Hollins Lane and Knox Lane into Harrogate. A lovely relaxed ride on a fine day. Malcolm



### Medium Ride Report

Gordon [aka Billy] and Allison were leading, so twelve of us whizzed off sharply on a pleasant, sunny morning to make our way to Little Almscliffe. Max let it be known that Caroline had already set off, so we assumed we pick her up on the way. It was heads down all the way to Little Almscliffe. Allison was at the back and riding slowly. It turned out she had trouble with a knee. Having reassembled and been carefully photographed by our commissioned local photographer, Mr Preston, we continued on our way along the Stainburn Forest track. At the end of the track our photographer spotted a wonderful photo backdrop, so we all posed accordingly. However, still no sign of Max's 'other half'.

The ride continued on lanes and busier roads to Almscliffe Crag. Here, Max and Peter slipped off to return home by a shorter route. The remaining ten had a lovely downhill ride all the way to Huby. Then, across the main road and onwards to Kirkby Overblow. Allison's knee was clearly a nuisance and she was looking forward to refreshment at Kirkby Overblow. However, it was not to be- nowhere was open. On the way up the hill, we'd finally caught up with Caroline- and she'd been round by Pool! So then, up to the bypass where three more left us at Walton Hill. A quick descent from Ridding up to the corner where we realised we'd not had a coffee stop. Three decided to continue home, while four of us retreated to the nearest place of refreshment where we had a convivial half hour. A lovely ride for a December day. Thanks to Gordon and Allison for leading and to Mr P. for the photography. Alison N.





### **Medium-Plus Ride Report - Group of Six**

This is a great freewheeling ride on a mildish December day, with no wind, some sunshine, great views of the White Horse and the chateau at Myton-on-Swale.

Despite leaving Hornbeam last, our cheeky group managed to take the front position by avoiding the Morrisons, Forest Moor and Abbey Road run. We headed straight for Starbeck and in to Knaresborough. We had a long break at the finely restored bridge at Myton which was a first for some of our six and as advised by Keith looked at the "War Horse" stables just beyond the big house.

The big debate then centred around our coffee stop. Choices on a Sunday are thin so we agreed to go to Morrisons ! The only downside was hitting the cooked lunch brigade and we had all finished our drinks with no food in sight. However our esteemed diplomat secured an early release of our food and free drinks all round.

Home via the prescribed route, with one puncture on the way and then a fine end to our day along the Greenway. We have to confess that we missed out the Cundall loop but still rode 50 miles. Great ride, thanks to my group, really enjoyed it, Gia M



### **Medium-Plus Ride Report - Sightseers**

The temperature was one whole degree driving over from Wetherby but by the time we reached Hornbeam it had hotted up to five degrees, so I was glad to be in my second best vest. Anyone new to vests needs to know that you can't beat merino wool for warmth, comfort and easy care. The same goes for socks.

Gia needed an extra leader for the large number of medium plussers, so Sarah, Monica and Keith volunteered to lead and the rest of us followed, namely Colin, Robert, Terry C, Bash, Tim and me. Colin proved to be an excellent maverick back marker, operating from the back, middle and front during the day. We decided to concentrate on sightseeing on this splendid route and took in the following attractions:

- The Blue Plaque at Great Ouseburn commemorating the De Havilland bomber that crashed there during the Second World War.

- Aldwark Village Church (St Stephen's), built by the "rogue" architect E B Lamb who designed a number of churches in North Yorkshire (including one at Blubberhouses which we can visit on next week's ride!).
- Myton Bridge – scene of a famous battle when the Scots beat the English at the White Battle in 1319.
- Myton Hall where we gave way to Sir Ken Morrison, driving home in his Range Rover.
- Myton Stud Farm where we met the owner from Myton Home Farm, a charming man who gave us a short guided tour and told us about the historic events when it was requisitioned by the government during the First World War and collected 9,500 "war horses" from all over North Yorkshire. Here they were prepared and lead down to the railway station at Helperby/Brafferton from where they were transported by rail to Hull and then by sea to France.
- Memorial plaque by Brafferton church, describing the shooting down of a Halifax bomber that was returning to Dishforth. It was piloted by Canadians – the pilot was only twenty years old.

The final highlight of the day was Colin's masterclass in the art of mending punctures after Robert picked up a thorn from a beautifully flailed hedge en route.

43 miles with splendid repartee, we think. Keith and Helen T





### **Medium-Plus Ride Report - Faster Ride**

Six chose to join me on the faster medium plus ride together with Darren, who was waiting at Low Bridge on what is probably a Wheel-Easy first - a Kawasaki. As three of the group had had falls recently we rode cautiously where necessary especially into some of the sharper corners but as the journey progressed, conditions along with our confidence improved. Being the faster group today it was a bit of a surprise to meet Gia's group on the approach to Marton; either her training camp is paying off or she knows faster routes out of Harrogate than I do. Keen to press on and with various members taking the lead the elastic stretched and Darren came into his own as our motorcycle outrider stopping at junctions and directing the leaders in the right direction as we rode through Aldwalk, Myton and Helperby. Following a café stop at Tasty Snacks in Boroughbridge, we headed back to Harrogate via Roecliffe, Bishop Monkton and Markington with Dave doing a long stint on the front. The Greenway was surprisingly quiet today and we were able to enjoy this traffic free ride into Harrogate. An enjoyable ride today in good company - 48 miles due to short-cut taken at Thornton Bride. Martyn B.

## Long Ride Report

The Long Ride started out with eleven riders leaving Hornbeam, but increased to twelve by the time we left Knaresborough. The ride turned out to be full of incidents as follows:

Incident 1. On leaving Thornton Bridge a sheepdog decided to round up the group by leaping out at us from a farm building. In an effort to avoid the dog much braking and swerving was called for by several cyclists with the result that Jill F ended up crashing into a hedge and fell off her bike. Fortunately Jill did not sustain any major injury.

Incident 2. No sooner had Jill recovered then Phil S had a dizzy spell and had to sit down to recover. Dr Roberts prescribed a Bounty as cure in such circumstances. Once the Bounty bar was consumed Phil was back to his normal self.

Incident 3. Eric had a contretemps with a motorist as we were approaching the market place in Thirsk. The driver opened his door, whilst still on the move, to continue the debate about the incident with Eric.

Incident 4. On leaving Cundall and heading for Norton-Le-Clay a spoke broke in Glyn's rear wheel and he immediately ground to a halt. The rear wheel was so buckled that it was hard up against the frame. After some heading scratching it was decided to use the services of Dave Siswick Bicycle Recovery Service. Dave set off to collect his truck, and we left Glyn and his broken bike to continue our ride back to Harrogate.

Despite all the incidents the ride was a pleasant tour of the foothills around White Horse Bank and a steady ride back to Harrogate via Thirsk, Boroughbridge, Bishop Monkton and Ripley. Of the twelve riders who started the ride only five managed to complete the ride in its entirety. Peter J.

