

Sunday, December 15, 2013

Wheel Easy Ride Report 398

Short Ride Report

A Grand Tour of the Cycleways and back roads of Harrogate was the route for the 10 riders on the Short Ride, including nipping through the Showground where Sarah spotted a giant pop up Father Christmas -see photo. Then we continued to Starbeck past such major tourist attractions as Betty's Factory and Starbeck level crossing until we finally we hit open countryside on the cycleway out of Starbeck. Then it was sailing along the Greenway to Ripley and coffee in The Castle Tearoom. Afterwards a breakaway group of four headed for Hampsthwaite (another coffee stop?), while the rest were homeward bound back along the Greenway. Well done to newcomer Leslie for keeping up the pace and quickly catching onto the key ingredient of Wheel Easy cycling i.e. cafe stops. Martin



Medium Ride Report

Interestingly Peter B and I had a different interpretation of today's ride but we agreed to differ and am sure all had a great ride. Our route had us mingling with the long ride who were looking at landmarks at Little Almscliff, then enjoying the views ourselves as we safely negotiated the A59 to the beautiful Nidderdale valleys. We all agreed that an extra loop to Darley was worth doing and after showing some of our newbies Hartwith Toll Bridge, Peter L persuaded five of them to cross the river, and loop round to Sophie's via Stripes Lane. We took Malcolm's favoured route past Birstwith Station Inn and up to Clint where we could smell the coffee. We reflected that this time last year we were battling with rain for most of our rides. We met with the two Lynda's who had added a loop to the short ride as we came round the Stray. 28 hilly miles.

Gia



Second Medium Ride Report

Just four riders took on the slightly longer route, involving some forest track at Stainburn Moor. Unfortunately, one rider had a change of heart before leaving Harrogate, so three headed through Rossett, past Harlow Carr and up the long drag to Stainburn Wood. The forest track was in reasonable condition despite recent rain so we soon reached the gated road, turned right and reached the B road in good time. Here, I was persuaded that being so close to Dob Park it was a great extra loop to take in, so this we did with no regrets as we stood to admire the views over the Washburn Valley. On returning to the B road we took the next left down past Swinsty Res. and up to Fewston Church, turning right past the Bents to the new Farm Café for a welcome brew and a fine panorama. After the break, a second rider decided he would take the shortest route back so just two riders crossed the A59 and pressed on through Forest Moor and down to Thornthwaite, turning east towards Darley and taking the top road above the village, dropping down again by the village hall and following the river to Birstwith. Here, we departed from the designated route a little to take on Clint Bank and head for Hollybank Wood bridleway taking us into Ripley and returning to Harrogate along the Greenway. Very little traffic, lots of birdlife, incredible views.... we recommend it!

Peter B

Medium+ Ride Report

The Country might be struggling out of a depression, but no such problems with this ride. There were at least a score of takers this morning, partially boosted, say it in a whisper, by deserters (from the long ride). Terry took a good number for a fast section, and the rest sauntered away for a day's gentle recreation. Our self-esteem was enhanced considerably when, after only a few hundred metres, we attracted a further member, who simply wheeled around in the road and attached herself to our peloton. It's pretty easy to spot the deliberate mistake in arrangements when you agree to meet someone, but choose a location which is not actually en-route. This is how Dave W happened to be wandering the countryside. This coupled with Jill's puncture; she

soon had a veritable host of blokes mending it including some chap who lived across the road, who dashed out with a track pump for her. Thanks mate. The "standing room only" situation at the lunch venue pushed us on to Tykes in Taddy, where another first was experienced. This was to have been dutifully recorded for posterity, but let down by a lack of attention to the technology, (flat camera battery), Jill's inaugural visit to the metropolis. A gentle and uneventful ride home, via the old disused railway station at Wetherby. Thanks to Dennis, Richard, Peter J, Glyn, James, Bridget, Jill (Jackson ?), Jill F, Dave's P & W, Paul T, and to Nick and John whom we collected at Tykes. Oh, and by the way, my water bottle was safe and sound on my kitchen table when I got home. How did it get there? I wonder. Dave S. About 45m.



Medium+ Fast Ride Report

Five left Hornbeam Park led by Terry, at Spofforth we were joined by Nick and then we were six. In Little Ribston Terry suggested a change to the route - skip Cattal and continue from Long Marston into York, lunch at the Reading Room in Rowntree Park then return via Beningbrough. We all agree this sounded fine, Nick agreed on the proviso there were no hills. At Cowthorpe Gavin thought he may have a puncture which fortunately turned out to be just a soft tyre but by this time we had lost 2 riders off the front of the ride so then we were 4. On to York where we picked up the cycle path, crossed the racecourse and arrived rather chilly at the Reading Room for a warming lunch (I can personally recommend the Curried Tomato and Lentil soup, the homemade mince pies seemed very popular too). Back onto the York cycle path and a spin alongside the river then on to Beningbrough, Great Ouseburn and Arkendale before returning to Harrogate where Gavin sadly just missed a Personal Best climbing Knaresborough Hill. Barbara D.

Long Ride Report

After Gia's welcoming speech, just 2 of us moved to the bottom car park to go out on the long ride, with several other long riders having defected to the next car park for the medium plus ride to Tadcaster. So a very quick change of route doubled our numbers as Peter B and Robert joined Peter R and myself. Instead of heading for Brimham Rocks and How Steen Gorge we were now on our way via Little Alms Cliff and Greenhow to Burnsall for lunch. We returned along the Wharfe Valley via Bolton Abbey and Ilkley to the Cock Pit Farm Tea Rooms, where 3 of us went in for tea and goodies, whilst Robert (who has now passed his target of 7,000 miles for the year!) continued home to Cookridge. The third and final session brought us back to Harrogate by the less familiar route of the long climb out of Otley to Askwith Moor, and then to Fewston, and Little Alms Cliff again. We arrived home just after 4pm, having completed a lovely winter ride of 61 miles and 4,500' of ascent - even more than the planned route! Eric