

Sunday, February 2, 2014

Wheel Easy Ride Report 405

Short Ride Report

It stormed and rained and thundered all night, the morning however was calm, blue skied, and free from rain. Ace, no pressure, just go and lead the short ride. Lovely.... and it was. Eight people wanted a gentle slow ride, and that hopefully is what they got. The Ofride Inspector was a little thrown by the route not including the Greenway both to and from Ripley, and the non-inclusion of Sophie's as a coffee stop. However, we meandered towards Knox Lane via lot of side roads, crossed the pack horse Bridge, risked life and limb crossing the Ripon Road, and continued up Grainbeck Lane, reaching the scary Ripon Road once more to turn off towards Nidd on the Rat run that is the road from Ripley to Knaresborough, at the first Ripley roundabout. All this time taking our lives in our own hands. The hill into Nidd ensured a bit of a traffic bottle neck and thankfully, Dave did what I had expected to do and stopped half way up. We looped left into Nidd and were now on the quiet lanes and bridleway stage of the tour. At the right-hand bend to Brearton we turned left again to skirt the Mountgarret estate, instead of the normal turn right to the stream and ford (which Jen had seen the previous day in a state of flood...the stream not Jen) we continued circling the estate and returned to the lane to Nidd without losing anyone despite several people trying to make an escape. Luckily back marker Downes sped off and lead the escapees back to the pack. To quote one Dave Griffin 'leading a ride is like herding cats'. Along the lanes back to the danger and excitement of the Ripon Road as we ambled to the Ripley Café. The siren calls of Sophie's lured Malcolm to continue up the lovely nearly finished path through Ripley to Clint Bank.... while eight sampled coffee, scones, teacakes and yes Alun an exquisite looking bacon sandwich. A good ride for all...but no one should count their chickens before they are hatched and Linda Mac discovered another puncture as we saddled up for home. Dave S and Al seemed to know what they were doing and finally managed to get a very stubborn tyre from around a front wheel. The tyre was inspected, and with the aid of a strap (I have now discovered two more attached to my bike, for just that purpose I understand) put back on the wheel and that was put back on the bike...like magic. Isn't it a good thing there are so many women able stand round a bike repair and chat as well as advise. The run home along the Greenway, which was packed with dog walkers, cyclists, and self walkers, was pleasant and gentle. Thank you for such a restful morning, reminding me how lovely the short rides are. A short ride length at a slow ride speed with a good gossip included. Thank you all, especially the on tour mechanics and the brilliant backmarker. Caroline G



Medium Ride Report

In unusually sunny conditions I set out for Knaresborough with the first half of the medium group. There, we met up with two more riders, making ten, and moved on to Farnham, up the short hill and regrouped. Pressing on through Copgrove we paused again near Burton Leonard, only to find we had lost one rider with a broken chain, who later rang confirming he had arrived home thanks to assistance from Max who had been passing by in the second group.

Knowing our rider to be in good hands, we pressed on with the SW wind behind us to Littlethorpe then turned right past the racecourse and right again to Skelton-on-Ure where we stopped briefly to admire the redundant church and take a photo. Not far then to the anticipated coffee stop at Gilchrist's, great! Setting out for home some time later we were facing an oncoming wind so some of us had to take it steady, but in due time we made it back together and dispersed our various ways home. No showers encountered on the 32 mile route. Peter B



Medium-Plus Ride Report

It was a very promising start to the day when seventeen riders turned out of Hornbeam in line astern for the ride, and even better when we were soon joined en-route by Nick, and then Paul. First proper stop was at the toilets at Timble (we're none of us getting any younger), which are so conveniently shown on Google Maps as, well er..... conveniences. Next stop was at the top of Askwith Bank to welcome a flock of new members. I think they knew a shortcut to The Cock Pit Farm, as they all turned off left before the bottom of the hill. The group split up then with some heading East and for home, whilst about a dozen of us went on for a snack in Ilkley served by a veritable bevy of beauties. It seemed a pretty gentle ride downwind (if you know what I mean) from there on in, enlightened by the fact that my brand new out of the box leg warmers generated much mirth amongst the ranks due to their inability to stay up. A very pleasant 45 miles or so and back in time for the Rugby on TV. Thanks to all participants, we had a lovely day. Dave S

Seven of us turned left after Askwith to Cockpit Farm which was extremely busy with cyclists. We found a table and were joined by new rider Colin from Leeds.

We returned home via Farnley and Lindley reservoir arriving back in Harrogate having done some excellent climbs. Gia M





Long Ride Report

Only three riders, Mike, Martin and Ian, were takers for the long ride. With a tailwind we made brisk progress until we arrived at Wass Bank. Wass Bank lived up to its reputation and two riders fell victim to the steep climb. Ian had mechanical problems when his chain did not wish to participate in the hill climb. After refreshments at Ampleforth Abbey we started on the return journey. Unfortunately the majority of the journey was into the wind; Mike led for most of time, and therefore took some of the pain out of the ride home. At Boroughbridge we decided to amend the route to reduce the mileage into the wind, and returned to Harrogate via Arkendale and Ferrensby and Knaresborough. Despite the windy conditions we managed a creditable 70+ miles. Peter J