

Sunday, February 9, 2014

Wheel Easy Ride Report 406

Short Ride Report

Brrr—on a wet, windy day a group of intrepid riders turned up to do 'just a short one'. Lynda, our leader, arrived with a proposed route and off we went. Then, disaster! Poor Lynda had a puncture before we had even left the car park. After some hesitation, the consensus was that it was sensible to set off while Lynda made her way home rather than attempt to mend the puncture in such conditions. So Dennis led us off on the proposed route. However, before we even got to Beckwithshaw, another puncture! Again, it was agreed to keep going. So another rider set off home. Now we were down to seven. We struggled up Norwood in the face of a fierce gale. Here we agreed that we hadn't made a sensible decision! However, we persevered despite the winds. As we neared Pennypot, we agreed we'd done enough. Everyone sailed along Pennypot with the sun shining. What a contrast! Dennis led us through Jennyfield and up to Coppice where we all dispersed. Wanting to uphold the coffee tradition, Diana and I called into Cafe Rosso [lovely coffee and cake]. Alison N

Medium Ride Report

Again the weather forecast was less than good and the day began with wind and rain. This seemed to effect the total turn out at Hornbeam car park; no matter the medium ride had a select six comprising, Bill W (nice to see you back after your knee problem), Dave P, Gia, Jen, Paul, and Paul T.

The route out was to Burn Bridge then on the Kirkby Overblow ridge to Sicklinghall, on the ridge the wind made its presence felt, the sky also looking threatening, but we had many cunning plans in the form of turn offs if the weather seriously deteriorated.

Fortunately breaks could be seen in the cloud towards Linton so the specified route was still a goer. So on to Collingham, Bramham, Clifford and Boston Spa for coffee and cake in the Deli Cafe (see photo), photographic evidence was needed just to prove to other riders that a DP led ride does not always finish up in a Morrison's cafe.

Then on to Thorpe Arch and the cycle path in to Wetherby, the Harland Way cycle path to Spofforth was avoided due to the past persistent wet weather, and the road was taken to North Deighton, Spofforth, Follifoot and the show ground. Here Gia led us on a pleasant little diversion to view the new cycle path to Hornbeam Estate, aka ICI Fibres HQ to BW & DP.

It was pleasant to note that the weather from Boston Spa was definitely spring like (keep them positive thoughts) sun, blue sky, white fluffy clouds and a stiff breeze. Please note it's only coffee I've been on. A little gem of a ride around 35 miles car park to car park. Dave P.



Medium-plus Ride Report

Initial prospects - limited. Weather forecast - "sun at 10.00" suggested a smiling jester. Route to Boroughbridge and Dunsforth with gusts on return - abandoned. New route Burnbridge then Brackenthwaite Lane towards Otley.

Riders - nine, - became ten - became four as Roger's Racers (six fast boys and girls) took up the invite to Ilkley and Beamsley Beacon.....watch this space.

Sedate foursome John, Terry, Jill and Sarah sauntered through North Rigton, Almscliffe Crag, Stainburn, Leathley with fuel stop at the Farm Shop by the Hunter's Inn. Onward to Castley, Weeton, Dunkeswick, Sicklinghall, Wetherby, Little Ribston and Spofforth. Almost a Spring day - daffodils, snowdrops, sunshine. Did I hear a skylark?

Wheel Easy's famous team work chose the route and set the pace. 35 very enjoyable miles, 2,500ft of ascent - oops! Thanks to all. Sarah C

Six of us headed in a westerly direction, past the trout farm, and on to Cavendish Café. The outward journey could be described as 'character building', with a head wind, rain, mud and standing water. Regrettably, we lost two riders around Ilkley. When we left Cavendish, complete with warm dry gloves and hats, the rain had stopped and the weather improved. At Bolton Bridge the group split with two riders opting for a longer return route via the Cow and Calf. The remaining two riders enjoyed the tail wind and sunshine to reach Hornbeam Park in 54 miles. Roger S

Initially all nine riders set out from Hornbeam as a single group but after climbing through Burn Bridge and Brackenthwaite the group had separated into slower and faster sections so it was agreed the two groups would continue separately. Onward then to Stainburn ridge and Farnley, into Otley and out towards Ilkley; here I noticed we were a man missing and volunteered to go back to find him, I eventually found a disgruntled Paul repairing a flat tyre and stopped to wait. Unfortunately if it could go wrong with a repair, it did. The valves popped out of the spare tubes, both spare tubes were thin rubber and ripped while fitting, the self-sealing gel stopped the patch glue sticking, all this in a howling gale and lashing rain. Paul eventually decided he would attempt to repair the original tube then head home and I continued to on Ilkley for a coffee, deciding not to look for the rest of the ride who could be anywhere by now.

After a welcome hot drink and sympathy from the waitress I was putting on my wet waterproofs ready to head home when a cold and wet Paul arrived and we agreed to ride back together. The return trip to Otley was much faster with a strong tailwind until Paul's next puncture outside the Cockpit cafe but at least we had sunshine, shelter and some wheelie-bins to use as workbenches. In Otley we detoured into Chevin Cycles to restock on tubes and patches, there were some very smart Assos jackets in the shop so I decided it would be safer to wait outside. Puncture number three occurred at Castley, Paul whipped out the original tube that was now more patch than tube and replaced it with a shiny new Chevin tube and in no time we were back on the road. Chevin Cycles did not let us down and we rode back through Weeton, Kirby Overblow and the Showground with no further pit-stops. Barbara D

Long Ride Report

If I had not been down to lead I think the blowy trip over the Stray and the forecast would have turned me back home. But some turned out and a lot seemingly too for Otley. So a weather-safe trip to Masham via Ripley (can always come back from there). A less than usual route to Ripley and then jackets off, and Fountains, marvellous snowdrops and water cascades around there. A few more variations and lunch at Masham, having almost ridden for three miles through a perfect rainbow, where Phil stopped clicking but resumed on the pressure up to Carthorpe. Dave went directly home from Ripon Bank, no doubt through a few more puddles and we hit the winds that had been forecast to drop, up Studley Park. Phil, at the front was mobbed or engulfed by a large walking party but re-emerged. Both just re-emerged later too through the Fountains Road - long deep puddles- feet in the air and into the wind. A blustery few miles home before the rain,- thanks and glad I went. 58m. Richard P