

Sunday, February 16, 2014

Wheel Easy Ride Report 407

Short Ride Report

The Short Ride participants were possibly among the first few riders in Harrogate to test out the new extension on the Greenway from Ripley out towards Hampsthwaite. Twelve riders – men and women (maybe should be called a 'jury') joined the ride. Blessed with a warmer day and sunshine it was a nice change! The Greenway extension is really well done and is more scenic than its earlier section. We descended to Sophie's in Hampsthwaite where Paul B left us for home and the rest tucked into coffee and cakes. The café will be closed from 17th Feb to early March so times could be hard next week!

Three riders set off early from the café and the rest went to Killinghall outskirts where the group split..... bit like a jury..... the ride leaders group including Bridget, Kate, Bob, Alun and John R came back via Knox bridge and the Stray. The others went on to Killinghall. Overall a really pleasant short ride. John R



Medium Ride Report

Were we dreaming?, Little wind and sunshine; it promised to be a good day for riding. The medium ride split into two groups a faster one which would or would not complete the full advertised ride depending upon the weather later in the day and a slower one which would be following the advertised route to Boroughbridge and then wimping out and returning home by the shortest route – the excitement of returning via the climb out of Markington and the new cycle path from Clint to Ripley would have to wait for warmer times.

Ten of us set out from Hornbeam to Low Bridge. Just after the traffic lights at Woodlands the ride leader, whilst checking to see if riders were stranded at the lights, executed a magnificent triple salko (with toe loop) and imitating the finale of Torvill and Dean's Bolero, with bike, gracefully spun on peddle end to the pavement – fortunately no damage done. At Low Bridge one rider defected to the faster group. Just after Arkendale we came across two riders from the faster group who kindly had waited for us. We were now eleven. Onwards to the Dunstons for the obligatory photocall and then into a head wind towards Boroughbridge. Three usual suspects declined coffee, leaving eight to participate. This was a café stop of two halves. Both halves initially thought that

they had done well. As there was only space for four inside, in the warmth, the remaining four sat outside, declining offers of gloves and scarves, in the sunshine. Then it started to hailstone. However it did even up later when those from inside had to reacclimatise themselves with the cold.

Onwards then to the outskirts of Knaresborough where it was decided that the group would split up and progress at their own best speed home as it was getting cold. A good ride of 31 miles in pleasant weather. Thanks for your company and to Jill J for back-marking. Max G



It was so lovely to be out in the sun! 32 miles at a fair speed to Boroughbridge via the Ouseburns. We were joined by a musical legend and two other groups of cyclists at Tasty Snacks. There was not much room for movement. Special thanks to Paul Randall who speedily repaired Neil's chain when it broke. Rachael H



Medium Plus Ride Report

Wow what a great ride! An excellent route, stunning views and brilliant weather. Over twenty riders opted for the hilly 40 mile ride to Pateley Bridge. Terry led the riders who wanted a faster ride and eleven chose a slower pace. The least enjoyable part of the ride was cycling into the wind towards Little Almscliffe where unfortunately Sarah C left us to return home. The route via Menwith, Harper Lane and Foldshaw Lane certainly had some good climbs leading up to York's Folly. After refreshments at 'Teacups' we continued climbing up to Brimham before

the downhill ride towards Ripley. At Ripley we took the opportunity to cycle through Hollybank Woods on the new footpath. It was so good half the group returned on it to cycle the Greenway while the remainder continued to Sophie's where we met up with Malcolm and Gia. Thanks to Sarah and Debbie for back marking. Paul T

The faster medium plus ride was led by wing commander Terry Barker with seven co-pilots, Mike, Tony, Paul, Paul (the plasterer), John and Roger.

All headed out to the hills on a promising start to the day.....the sun was out we put in our first stop at the top of Norwood lane where we unfortunately lost one of the Paul's due to a knee problem. Passing the Menwith Hill base we headed on towards the top of Hardgroves Hill giving us fantastic views over a clear and glorious Nidderdale, a fast decent past Darley Mills and into the first of the hills climbing up to Dacre Banks top, after a small breather stop to regroup we headed left up Dike lane carrying on climbing up and out on to the windy tops with great views over towards a snow covered Whernside and then down the break-block reducing rim heating Yorks folly, losing height quickly as we all swept into Bewerley and reaching Pateley Bridge for a well-earned refreshment stop of teas, cake, bacon sarnies and in Paul's case a rather stacked plate of eggs and beans on toast.

Refreshed and re-fuelled we pushed on up to (more hills) a sunny Glasshouses through Wilsall Bridge left and climbed up a few more bumps past Hollin wood reaching Brimham rocks and of course stopping to 'admire' the view. Then it was all big ring stuff down hill for a few miles in the almost spring like sun picking up the wonderfully named Careless House Lane eventually joining Fountain's Abbey road taking us head down almost dead straight to Ripley and then along the Greenway, busy with people enjoying the lovely weather and back home to Harrogate, a really enjoyable ride. Anthony P





Long Ride Report

It's great to see the happy smiling faces of cyclists enjoying a well organised ride where everything runs smoothly, where nobody gets lost, where there are no punctures, where a confident leader boldly leads a well drilled group, taking turns at the front and progressing effortlessly to interesting new destinations.

I think an unlucky thirteen left Hornbeam. I'm not really sure as I never got time to count them before riders started to disappear. The first to depart was Steve who went missing somewhere around Skipton Road followed by Jill before we reached Ripley. The new cycle path from Ripley was a disaster area causing punctures for Mike and Dave and the loss of Peter R to prior commitments. At Burnt Yates the ride officially split into two groups with one group carrying on as planned while the rest stayed behind to try (unsuccessfully) to regroup. Dave then punctured again and eventually two hours after leaving Hornbeam we reached the Brimham Rocks turning!

A spell of free running followed and my dwindling band of stragglers reached the water board road to Scar House as the lead group of Mark, Peter L, Dave R, Dan and Peter J were returning from the reservoirs. The lead group joined Eric and Jill in the café after first sampling the climb to Middlesmoor – brave souls indeed. The band dwindled even further at Scar House where Dave refused all entreaties to carry on to Angram and headed straight back to caff. Glyn and I carried on as far the road would take us having been correctly advised by the leaders of the marvellous views of snow-capped hills encircling Angram reservoir. They were right. The view was well worth the extra miles.

Glyn and I made our way back to the café as the rest were leaving. We then made our way home without tackling Yorke's Folly. I'm sure some of the group would have gone up the hill but not me. I did see some happy, smiling faces but the rest of the opening sentence is all balderdash. Well maybe it might happen one day. Phil S

Addendum to Long Ride Report

At Burnt Yates four riders, PCJ, Mark, Dave R and Dan, left the rest of the group to proceed with the ride as originally planned. Leaving Burnt Yates the group split into two groups, namely, Mark and Dave R, and, PCJ and Dan. At Lofthouse Dave R had to attend to a call of nature and therefore Dan and I passed Mark and carried on to Scar House but were soon overtaken by Mark. At Scar House reservoir the three of us decided to cross the dam retaining wall to get a better view of the

reservoir. While we were at the far end of the dam Dave R had arrived at the other end of the dam and then continued along the track to Angram Reservoir. We then made our way back from Scar House to Middlesmoor and the cafe at How Stean, where we were surprised to find Jill and Eric, and even more surprised when Dave arrived on the scene. The original four now departed How Stean for Pateley and Yorke's Folly. On reach Pateley Dave decided to return home by another route leaving three of us to "charge up" Yorke's Folly and return to Harrogate via Darley and Hampsthwaite to complete the ride as originally planned. Peter J



