

Sunday, February 23, 2014

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 408

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### Short Ride Report

Thirteen chose the short ride today, maybe hoping to find a route protected from the wind. They all seemed happy with the chosen route which tried to take in all the new cycle paths being constructed. Malcolm and I led two groups. We bowled along the Greenway, initiated them all to the new Hollybank Woods section where we met fellow Wheel Easy members out for a walk. The path is fabulous, scenic and allows good space for all users. We returned into a little headwind but nothing too bad and used the Bilton Lane to The Avenue section of the cycle network. Here we saw the difference with some sections resurfaced and others muddy and poorly surfaced and sections of the path behind Sherwood Drive which could do with a good sweep and some decent signage.

On past the tip, Sainsbury's and in to the showground to the path which had the last of the tarmac laid on Friday afternoon. We exited the path straight opposite Indulge where we had coffee.

This ride illustrated how many improvements have been made to the cycle network since Wheel Easy started in 2006. Dennis reflected that the ride took him back to those early days of Wheel Easy when we used what paths there were. This latest path round the showground will be a great route for many users. If we could persuade Yorkshire Agricultural Society to give us a flat route through the top of the showground that would be the icing on the cake.

We welcomed two new riders who were attracted by our excellent website and returning holiday makers who even checked up on the rides while away! Sixteen mile ride. Gia M



### Medium Ride Report

The weather forecasts had been full of doom and gloom, particularly the bit about high winds. This caused Paul B to be somewhat (his words) out of his comfort zone, so good lad that he is he burned the midnight oil and devised a different ride at a lower altitude. This was in total agreement with DP, who said he should not lose sleep over wind. We had eleven riders and it was decided to ride as a group, but fragment on the way down to Low Bridge where we would reconstitute (hopefully without the addition of water). Here we were joined by two more EG's, Bob S and Dave W, but no Norman, who had declared "it was too windy" what

he meant was it was too windy for Kilt wearing, which was very considerate, as we had ladies present, but tight Trews would have been perfectly alright. Paul took us on a delightful little detour through Knaresborough, causing some dissention in the ranks, with remarks like "this will never go" ,but go it did, well done PB. Despite the big ugly blue splodge on the weather forecast map, it was wind on our backs, blue sky and sunshine as we headed for Boroughbridge via Arkendale, Grafton and Aldborough, where Paulinus B quizzed us on its Roman name. Then in to Tasty Snacks to fill it with cyclists, a dozen from Wheel-Easy, three from Pontefract and one from Ripon. After sustenance Paulinus B tested our memory on Aldborough`s Roman name, for once the EG`s present did remember, and to round it off, also remembered where they lived. The way back was of course in to the wind, 20mph is a nuisance but manageable, and in the words of Young Mister Grace "we all did very well". The return route was via Roecliffe, Copgrove and Farnham, with a couple of the Ladies taking a more direct route home. We advenire in Harrogate for around 1-00pm, missing the rain, and 60mph gusts (if they actually existed), England had beaten Ireland, and a nice "elegant" ride, many thanks Paul. Dave P.

### **Medium-plus Ride Report**

Question: When shall we three meet again in thunder, lightning, or in rain?

Answer: 09.30 a.m., every Sunday, Hornbeam

Despite the Shakespearian forecast lots of people turned up to do battle against the wind. I was hoping there would be no takers for the medium plus ride and I could just slide round the corner in to Fodders for second breakfast. Instead, fourteen keen riders lined up, including a goodly sprinkling of EGs and Jill. Paul T kindly volunteered to assist in the absence of my Chief Assistant who was at home nursing a couple of cracked ribs and trying not to sneeze/cough/laugh.

The wind was stiffish but not too gusty so, apart from one moment, when Dave S declared "you're leaning over at 60°", it really was not a problem. The sun shone a bit and we all felt quite overdressed. Woolly vests and hats definitely weren't needed.

So, we rolled merrily on through Spofforth, Cowthorpe, Tockwith and Long Marston, through Hutton Wandesley and Angram and at the Healaugh Road, Paul T, Sarah C and Sir John opted to divert straight to Wetherby. Good choice, thought I. The remaining eleven did the Bilbrough loop and stopped in Bolton Percy because the team rooms were open with no customers and had a fire blazing in the grate. Usual wide ranging conversation ensued and it was concluded that no EG could arrange their funeral for a Wednesday because it would ruin a good day's cycling.

The wind had moderated slightly as we left the tea rooms and with a little drizzle in the air we continued through Oxton and Tadcaster, Wighill, Walton, Wetherby, North Deighton, Spofforth and home. I was slightly regretting having given the EGs so much stick about their advancing years in the cafe because the stress of leading had worn me out and I was slipping inexorably to the rear. Dave S was in control at the front, so no worries there. The on board computer said 47 miles at an average speed of 12.2 mph (figures not adjusted for wind). Computers don't register the fun factor but it must have been nearing ten on the Richter Scale. A really enjoyable day out – on a day when I might just have wimped out. Helen T



### **Long Ride Report**

There were only two potential takers for the long ride today with Peter reporting that it was raining to the west of Harrogate, the planned direction of the long ride. All agreed to join the medium plus ride rather than battle the wind & rain. Jill F