

Sunday, April 6, 2014

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 414

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### Short Ride

Ten of us set forth from Hornbeam en route (for a change) to Hampsthwaite and Sophie's. I volunteered to lead the ride at the last minute so could not come up with a more imaginative route at such short notice..!!! All ten of us made it to Sophie's via Ripley and the superb Hollybank Lane before Paul being the conscientious type decided that discretion was the better part of valour and as he had just moved house he ought to get back and buy some milk on his way home so did not join us for a coffee. His place however was taken up by Malcolm who joined us at the cafe and continued with us part of the way home. Various of the group went their different ways from the top of Hollins Lane. Hopefully a good fifteen mile ride was had by all in dry and warm (for time of year) conditions and the forecast rain never materialised. David S



### Medium Ride

Thirteen for the Medium Ride on an overcast and blustery day, and the hilliest route on the calendar. Simon, Denis and Pete set off in an elite group, leaving ten steady pacers. We followed the familiar route towards Stainburn. Just before the car park Peter pointed out a meadow pipit, which swooped down to sit on a fence post as we passed, a fantastic sight. We also swooped - slightly less elegantly, perhaps - down to Fewston. Dave, not for the first time, was the champion free wheeler (what does he do to that bike?).

Here five opted for a shorter ride, and turned back towards Harrogate. That left Alison, Andy, Jenny, Peter and me to start the ascent, first to Timble, and then up to the ridge along Wharfedale. It's a bit of a slog, but this is a route that gives as well as takes, and we were rewarded with great views across the Dale, a fast descent through Askwith, and Cockpit Farm just when we needed it.

We made good time going east, via Castley and Dunkeswick, and then had the wind behind us for part of the climb to Kirkby Overblow. Peter pointed out a buzzard on the way up and then sparrowhawks over the village, all making light of the conditions. This was Andy's last ride for a little while: all the very best for your wedding the week after next. A terrific ride, thanks to all for making it so. Justin K

### Medium-Plus Ride

After dividing up the riders at Hornbeam, Terry led off a faster paced group, which left Gia and I with just ten riders between us. We set off in smaller units and regrouped every so often at Low Bridge, Farnham, Great Ouseburn and then Aldwark to look at the interesting exterior architecture of the church. Onto the bridge at Myton-On-Swale where we had a welcome snack and took in the battle history.

While we were there, Gia asked if anyone fancied trying out the Golden Lion pub at Helperby and all agreed that we could have a cursory look. It all looked good and welcoming and especially when hot roast sandwiches were offered by the friendly waitress. Martin decided to go the extra mile and treated himself to a substantial treacle sponge with lashings of custard.

Feeling very fortified we rode onto Boroughbridge and after that found ourselves going into varying strengths of wind for the rest of the ride. When we said goodbye at Dragon Bridge, all agreed that apart from the good ride and company, we had been extremely fortunate with the weather after the rather dire forecast. About 50 miles. Monica W





A swift Terry Barker-led departure from Hornbeam Park on a mixed weather day was slowed down at Calcutt with a puncture (and various riders have to take layers of due to the mild weather) which was quickly repaired we all regrouped at Farnham. The two Paul's, Julie, Terry, Tony, Roger and Owen headed down to Ferensby crossroads and out down the arrow straight road quickly reaching Arkendale village.

Once past the old A1 we headed towards Marton and through Great Ouseburn taking a left we reached the teeth jarring Aldwark Bridge waved through by the ever present old guy in the bright yellow hi-viz. Once through Aldwark and Flawith we reached the pleasant loop with a stone entrance taking us past the Grade1 listed English Heritage country pile of Myton Hall built in the late 1600's by the Stapylton family. By now the promised rain had arrived and once through Helperby Brafferton the brew stop at Boroughbridge was welcomed all round along with beans on toast and bacon sarnies and the cardboard cut-out of Elvis Presley.

With the wind picking up we reached the hilly section of the ride as we rolled into Bishop Monkton pushing on toward Markington and the cheeky hill just beyond. Once on the Fountains road it was heads down past the little business park, descending quickly to reach Ripley and the Greenway, finally back into Harrogate. A good day's ride enjoyed by all. Anthony P

### **Long Ride**

Just five people for the long ride today. We took the familiar route out to Boroughbridge and Hutton Sessay and Kilburn heading for a café stop at the Abbey tearooms in Ampleforth. Somewhere between Kilburn and Byland Abbey we had our only rain of the day which fortunately turned out to be a relatively light and short shower.

After lunch we headed back via Yearsley and Easingwold with the wind making the going much harder than earlier in the day. A good pace was kept up with just a brief recovery stop at Great Ouseburn before the last few miles home. Approx 66 miles – well done to Beth on her first long ride when she rode almost twice as far as she had ever ridden before! Jill F

