

Sunday, May 18, 2014

Wheel Easy Ride Report 420

Short Ride

Thirteen riders assembled for the short ride on this beautiful morning. A new member Bob was introduced. Is the first coffee stop at Morrisons? he asked with a smile on his face. Sorry Bob just a few more miles to do than that. We set off to Leeds Road traffic lights, the road now finished with a lovely new cycle space, down Leadall Lane to Ashville college and passed the Squinting Cat and on to Beckwithshaw. We then carried on passed the Army college to Skipton Road which seemed even busier than usual, everyone probably wanting to be out on this sunny morning. Why aren't they on bikes?- much nicer. We cycled on to Hampsthwaite where it was agreed to have our coffee stop and nice social chat at Sophie's sitting in the garden. Leaving Sophie's to face Clint Bank we then cycled up the hill to then turn right to Hollybank woods. Sorry riders! the bluebells had gone passed their best. Still going through the woods on the new Tarmac road is lovely. We then went along the Greenway which was quite busy as expected. Several riders decided they wanted to go back via Starbeck, so I went with them and Sarah rode with the rest back to Harrogate. Bob, hope you enjoyed your first ride with Wheel Easy, despite just one coffee stop! Approx 17 miles. Linda



Medium Ride

A relatively small Medium group of 10 riders for such a sunny day set off along the Greenway where a puncture briefly delayed progress, but in lovely sunshine everyone enjoyed a bit of hanging about. Then it was climb, climb and climb up to Brimham Rocks. The views were great. Dennis could smell the Sunday roast, and Alison and Gordon joined him on a fast swoop back home. After cruising around the Rocks we headed down to Burnt Yates, and then on to Sophies for the official coffee stop, while a group made their way back along through Hollybank Woods and the Greenway to return home. Martin W.

Lovely ride described by Martin. The only addition being consumption of cakes and coffee at Sophies, basking in yet more sunshine in the garden. Nice to bump in to Malcolm who had refreshed with an ice cream and then set off to enjoy the wonderful weather. Thank You to

Martin and to all the very companionable group who made this a very easy ride to lead - I hardly noticed doing it. Some additional photos attached, including the magnificent British White Cattle herd on the road up to Warshill. Peter L







Slower Medium+ Ride

We were a group of 9 until one was swept up on Walton Head Lane by Helen's group who presumably had gone on a long short cut! At the Netherby junction we stopped to take on water, admire the view and pose for a passing cyclist who agreed to become our photographer. A short stop was made at Thorp Arch where a good number of large scones and coffees were consumed as we sat out in the sun. We had assumed that the cafe at Bolton Percy would be too busy on such a beautiful day but in fact the faster group had the garden to themselves. However we were too full of scone to partake so continued on enjoying the quiet roads round Acaster Selby and then stopping for another modelling session as we reached the river Ouse. After the Planet route we diverted to Tesco cafe to refuel. Not scenic but at least it was quiet and had quick service. After the grind down the side of the A64 the road and sunshine were enjoyed as we passed through Askam Richard and paused at the Marston Moor monument. After Cowthorpe Al's chain got caught (sorry the technical version was beyond me!) but the group were delighted to rest as most had started to flag. Al left us at Little Ribston where Graham had to feed us jelly babies so that we could continue. The number of hills left was worked out with horror though Nicki and Graham missed the last ones as they left us at Follifoot. Thanks to Justin for being a very patient back marker, Neil for doing more than his fair share of sheltering us from the wind and Sally and the the others for their company. At least 55 miles on a glorious day. Liz P



Medium+ Ride

It was yet another sunny, lazy, hazy day of summer (although, less of the lazy, we averaged 12.3 mph) and there were a plethora of ride leaders and ride choices for the anticipated hoard. I managed to persuade the Fast Boys to buzz off on their own so I finally set off with just five, feeling a bit unpopular! If I have remembered their names correctly they were Terry C, Kevin, Robert, Sue and Me. Things looked up at Burn Bridge because Dave defected from Liz's team,

then we found Paul B loitering with intent (to cycle) in Kirkby Overblow and finally, Glyn flagged us down near Sicklinghall, having defected from the fast group. Eight is a good number.

We headed almost without stopping to Bolton Percy where we sat outside in the peaceful café gardens, munching bacon sandwiches et al and watched Liz's group sail past, having taken an earlier café stop. We never saw them again!

The only excitement of the day was Dave's puncture as we neared the old Acaster Airfield. He fixed it in no time, ably watched by the other seven. Dave's full time occupation is Balloon Pilot, which did explain his excellent spatial awareness and unerring sense of direction.

The sun continued to shine, we found ourselves flying along, sometimes downwind, sometimes not and resisted the prospect of the garden centre café on the cycle path after Naburn Bridge, even though a blackboard intimated that there were "delicious cakes" inside.

The rest of the journey was uneventful and delightful and, a first for me, was returning on the Showground-Hornbeam cycle path which is a little gem. My car recorded 23.5°C on the way home so I think it is now time to cast off the woolly vest. Thanks to all for a classic Wheel Easy Fun Day Out. Helen





Long Ride

It was always going to be a hard ride with the heat, and the wind on the return, and the hills. The four other riders meant that I would be leading from the rear on the hills . So a few extra flat miles on Dalton roads, new to most first. Dave's debut up Boltby was fine, allowing for his painful shoes. I supported him on his walk. We were fortified seeing some sportif stragglers, then more 1 in 4 before the Hawaby fine burgers in the garden, with lots of tea refills. James fed us his chips, so more 25% climbs and the extra liquid stop 6 crow miles, one hour. later at the gliding club via

Rievaulx and Old Byland. Down hill and a green lane via Coxwold. Phil won, pre disqualification the race to Husthwaite, having gone to Carlton H. So along with Geoff, he formed the wind break. Home satisfied pre 6 with 80+ miles, 4k ft lots of liquid and great company. Richard P.

