

Sunday, June 22, 2014

Wheel Easy Ride Report 425

Gia's Saturday Ride

Fourteen of us cycled to Ripon on thirteen bikes, including one with a motor! The plan was to have a leisurely ride to Ripon, have lunch at Spa Gardens and then be entertained by the brass band in Ripon. We did ride leisurely although we lost Malcolm at the start in Knaresborough where after distributing cycle maps, he was transfixed by an excellent concert there in the market square. I think we missed a good concert.

We enjoyed sitting out at Spa Gardens but as we were very early despite our leisurely pace most drifted back home. Four of us stayed for the start of the concert which sadly lacked any atmosphere so we left. Route home through the Mountgarret estate and on to Ripley where we caught up again with Paul B who had managed to get a haircut in Ripon. We then chatted to the builders of a drystone wall structure being built along the path in Ripley for the Tour and then diverted to see the planting outside the new entrance to Daleside Nurseries. It was a lovely ride, thanks to all who came along. Gia M





Short Ride

Short ride of three ladies for the today. Quality not quantity I say. Caravan Lynda, Gill of Kirk Deighton and myself. As we were only three and taking the route through the showground, permission was granted by Martin and we set off first.

Originally the ride was to have been Follifoot, Little Ribston and cafe stop in Knaresborough. However after a brief discussion we decided to go to Wetherby via the Harland way. We had our cafe stop in Wetherby and rode back to Knaresborough. The last leg of the route was up the Beryl Burton at the request of Gill who doesn't like hills? I had to leave at this point as I was meeting family in Knaresborough. We needed to have a nose in the open gardens on Waterside.

An interesting topic for conversation in the cafe was our cholesterol levels. Didn't put us off our scones and teacake though. Jean B



Medium Ride

Whether it was the mid-summer madness, or a touch of the sun, both Sue D. and Jen, had suggested a trip up the Buttertubs Pass and on towards Grinton Moor. ..All three of us having done the route the previous week knew what fun that could be, even when coached and pacemaked by Glyn Sagan, who had actually covered the whole of Stage One on a bike three days ago. So It was with joy in their hearts that the slower sedate medium group realised that this was not what I had discussed with the true leaders Charmer Peter B and the Legend El Bulter in order to cut out Knaresborough Hill. The three groups set off and were speedily heading for the Lowlands of Boroughbridge, where our group finally caught up with the other groups and took over Tasty Snacks café, and enjoyed scones, teacakes, coffee fried egg sandwiches and no doubts other delights. Finally we continued onward to Roecliffe, Copgrove, and onto the Mount Garratt

estate. At this point Jen had realised she had lost Glyn who had sped off on an egg hunt for homemade ravioli and the rest of us realised we were cycling with a human super woman, as Joanne quickly and efficiently threw all the bikes over the stream stile, instead of paddling in the ford as Ruth and Danny bravely did.

A hill free ride home followed as nine of us split up, to spend an afternoon visiting, lying in respective back gardens, interrogating partners about standing in queues next to Mark Cavendish's uncle, cooking or cleaning, having effortlessly covered a mere 40 miles without doing too much pedal pushing. Sorry to have misled the other Sue, Sarah, and Joanne and Technological Dan, re distance and relative timing. And thank you for playing out so nicely everyone....perhaps we won't need to practice going up the Buttertubs Pass and Grinton Moor, as in thirteen days' time our teams might not be needing us for some reason. Caroline G



Medium Plus Ride

A great summer morning saw a large group of about twenty riders setting off on quite a long tour of the Vale of York, taking in Aldwark Bridge, Easingwold, Coxwold and returning via Boroughbridge. A steady ride out to Easingwold was a delight in the morning sunlight, and we stopped in the Main Square at the Curious Table for a tasty brunch. At this stage about half the group decided on a quick return while the rest of us took a super back lane following the Sustrans route NCN 65 that brought us out at Newburgh Priory. The views of the freshly painted Kilburn White Horse were particularly special. On to Coxwold, and then heading west towards Boroughbridge Geoff's knee was playing up so we took it gently to a cafe stop. Julie, our new rider, and also James returned from here direct homewards. The rest of us returned via Roecliffe, Markington and Ripley to the Greenway and home. 62 miles of Summer riding. Martin W.



Long Ride

The cast: Jill F, Phil S, Richard P, Richard L, Dave W and Peter R.
The weather: fair to warm, settled and bright.
Six became seven when Dan joined the chase at Hornbeam, before remarking that he'd come out without a water bottle - fortunately it was none too hot on the way to Boroughbridge, though the bike shop was closed; a bottle of spring water did duty for the first half of the ride. His luck continued when he got lost in Staveley, nearly taking out Phil (again) after finding himself in "the wrong village". It was suggested he should follow Jill's leadership a little more carefully...

A throng of traffic met us at the Sutton-under-Whitstonecliff Road, but a more leisurely mood resumed on the run up to Felixkirk - just as well as it was Richard L's turn to (almost) get lost - narrowly avoiding an excursion up Boltby Bank - followed swiftly by a rear puncture (naturally) which proved a challenge to repair. No sooner had we remounted when we were passed by the Macmillan Tractor rally, perhaps forty fine machines of varying vintage and unfailingly good-natured chauffeurs. We chased them through Upsall to Knayton, where they'd stopped for an idyllic alfresco picnic - we had to continue the nine miles to Northallerton (at high speed - hunger was pressing after our unplanned delays.)

Our cafe stop was leisurely again, with relaxed service and agreeable food in a roof garden above the soon-to-close Lakeland (the clothing rather than home improvements store). Richard L and Phil took the chance to vanish off in search of a track pump; Dan bookended his meal with an excursion to find a genuine water bottle, the upshot of which was a 2pm departure from Northallerton. The spirit of haste took hold of us and we averaged close to 20mph through Newby Wiske (named for its river) to Thirsk, and the usual mix of courteous drivers and self-appointed roadowners met and overtook us on the narrow, potholed roads to Cundall and Boroughbridge. A bizarre encounter with an untrained-on-the-road mountain biker at the lights almost threatened to delay us further, but we'd covered thirty miles in two hours and were in time (just) for a cafe stop before closing. We celebrated with a game of musical chairs outside and dreamt up ways to pester the staff further before the doors closed for good - though in all fairness serving seven hungry, thirsty cyclists moments before closing at pretty reasonable prices deserved our gratitude more than our mischief.

A smooth final leg via Knaresborough completed the ride in good time with a 5pm return to Harrogate: eighty enjoyable miles at a high but achievable pace (averaging 15mph over the day

according to Your Correspondent's SigmaSport;) seven fitter, happier but tired riders, and one grand day out. Many thanks to the Mechanics' team of Richard P and Peter R, the speed demons Dave W and Phil S, the camaraderie of Richard L (no longer in blue;) and of course to our unassuming but supremely confidence-inspiring leader Jill. Not a bad way to spend the longest WheelEasy day of the year!

Commentary: Daniel H

