

Sunday, June 29, 2014

Wheel Easy Ride Report 426

Short Ride

A chilly morning at Hornbeam saw a gathering of sixteen riders for the short ride. After a consultation and a brief "shall we, shan't we" dance by a group of three, who shall be nameless because they preferred our company after all, we set off up to Beckwithshaw and over the moor past the Sun Inn. Then we followed the road via the entrance to Menwith Hill and along the ridge with glorious views before dropping down to Hampsthwaite and Sophie's. Suitably fuelled up we climbed up Clint Bank and back through Hollybank Wood to Ripley where we viewed the almost complete fantastic cycling sculpture. Then it was amble home along the Greenway. Two newcomers, Collette and Declan, who had joined us this morning and were understandably wary of riding any distance, but with some encouragement and plenty of breaks they enjoyed the morning and kept well up with the pace. And the sun came out, which always makes for a good ride. Martin W.

I joined the short group on the ride this morning. It was my first proper bike ride (and on a new bike that I wasn't very confident on) and so I arrived feeling very anxious. I just wanted to say a huge thank you to the ride leader, Martin and the other riders for making me feel so welcome and encouraging me all the way. I really enjoyed the ride and can't believe that I made it up all the hills (with lots of advice on gear changing!).

With best wishes, Colette Kon



Medium Rides

Sedate Medium Ride

Well the perfect day to head for the hills and today's ride instructions incorporates every hill in the medium riders repertoire.....except Knaresborough Hill. Four ladies and two gentlemen chose to lead me to the rocks. A faster group following the planned route to the letter should have overtaken us at the Drovers' crossroads. All we saw was lots of lost school children and herds of mamils looking aggressive and riding with no hands on the steering, until, as we reached to

summit, we did finally see coming in the easier gentler other direction, a very smug group of fast medium wheel easy gentlemen led by an unrepentant Justin and rather pleased Peter. Humph, I was split seconds away from making the same choice, but guilt and pride prevented a complete detour and we only made a minor looping adjustment. Anyway having posed for a clutch of photos, we left the speedy boys, to follow some more speedy boys, with numbers on, for their downward swoop home and continued, with a good spin down toward Birstwith, crossing the toll bridge near the Ripley/Pateley Bridge road. El Butler had a Butler dynasty lunch do, with four generations of Butlers on the calendars, so sped off home. The Lure of the Pub in Birstwith, as we headed left to Clint Bank, was too strong for Gordon and Allison and we lost them. So three ladies suddenly found themselves in a nearly empty Ripley Café, where we were, amazingly, quickly and efficiently served. Barbara dashed off to get back home for one o'clock and Marion and I took to the Greenway in a leisurely manner encountering a scary motorbike boy and a lost boy in the form of Martin, who was having an outfit adjustment, who had also come across the motor bike boy. As we entered the Asda car park the store of portaloos and barrier railings had reproduced and multiplied in a very exciting way. Thus ending a what I remembered as a route I disliked....but which was in fact was a very jolly jaunt, which will be repeated regularly. 25 or so miles.....climbing thousands and thousands of metres. Caroline G



Medium-plus Rides

Medium-plus Slower Version

Eight of us decided to follow Gia's group at a more sedate pace. At Boroughbridge Glyn decided to head off to Milby to buy a rucksack full of eggs causing a few circuits of a roundabout to others! Once reined in our first stop was at Great Ouseburn where the T d F bunting round the shelter was somewhat unusual! (see photo where Paul was forced to pose!). Jill and new lady Sarah (hope you join us again) left us here for afternoon appointments.

We stopped for refreshments at Beningborough Farm Shop and were impressed with the new layout and excellent service. Here we all paused for a photo with Gia's group who had arrived first. Next we headed into York where a detour was made to inspect and photograph the de Havilland Hurricane on the theatre roof. York was busy but we did our best!

On to the racecourse, past the sun and alongside the A64. We then passed through Billbrough and Catterton, a first for many and a lovely change to the usual route. At Thorpe Arch we stopped for more refreshments and were made very welcome. Here Paul seemed to be confused (too much sun or too little food?) as Paul ended up in the Ladies loo! This caused the standard of our conversation to go downhill rapidly - thanks Glyn!

Passing through Spofforth we passed a number of impressive scarecrows including some lady scarecrows all dressed up in T d F outfits and a fireman scarecrow putting out a fire on a cyclist's backside! About 63 miles and we all knew it as we climbed back into Harrogate! No news as yet as to whether the eggs were scrambled by the time they got home! Liz P





Medium-plus Group 2

Twenty five of us chose the ride to York via Beningbrough and back via Wetherby. We split in to three groups, thanks to Liz and Julie who led the other rides.

As leader I failed at the first hurdle not really having researched the route properly and promptly missed the turn to Copgrove and Minskip. But my fellow riders were very generous and considered this all part of the plan as we rode through the old part of the village of Marton which we usually bypass. This was new for some and made a nice detour to pick up the route to Lower Dunsforth where the village was being prepared for their celebration. All the villages have excelled themselves with decorations and follies including Great Ouseburn where the bra fest was blowing in the wind. I am sure the EG's have plenty to say about this feature which is located in one of their favourite banana stops.

We stopped at the farm shop where Glynn joined us and the cafe managed to serve us pretty well, especially as they had several groups of cyclists and a large posse of walkers. Here too we met Liz's group and had our team photo.

We enjoyed the ride along the river where James navigated our route out of York, through the new park and ride, to the A64 where after a brief separation we all met up in Bilbrough.

Here we bowled along through Healaugh and Wighill to Wetherby where we stopped for more coffee and a very late lunch for some.

Along the Wetherby-Spofforth path there were plenty of walkers and cyclists and we had to stop to allow a caterpillar to cross the path! Is this a first?

So 62 miles of riding, in good spirits, with great company and excellent support for the hapless leader who must do better next time! Gia M



Long Ride

Ten set off, mostly well wrapped up and it was only at Sawley that some clothing came off. There were some good scarecrows and a speed camera to slow down the fast front riders. But the next scarecrow turned out to be Peter B, masquerading as an aniseed bush and was next seen ahead of us at the head of the day's climb. James and pedal rejoined us after our saunter to look at Kirkby Malzeard bunting, obviously not on the route. We fed at Masham with its naked lampposts. The Pals (1918) Memorial was attained by seven - outnumbered by three cars of Belgians. We went back for Phil, being advised that a new tube was better than refitting a punctured one. So the rest of Colsterdale was left for another time. The big climb over Trapping was worthwhile and a fast run to the auction mart cafe. But enough seemingly to frighten off some, un-named so they missed Yorke's Folly climb. Back via Braithwaite, signals base and Wydra. 60 miles, 4750ft. Hopefully all got back happy as we were down to five at Penny Pot. Richard

