

Sunday, July 6, 2014

Wheel Easy Ride Report 427



Medium Ride

An early start this morning and a good turnout for the medium ride to the Cote de Blubberhouses to view the Tour de Yorkshire. We split into two groups, Paul B. leading the first and picking up Margolises and others en route. We made our way up to Little Alms Cliff, then down and up to Fewston, where our visiting party of four from Brussels decided to make their own way home. We began the ascent of the Col de Timble through a throng of cars, walkers and cyclists and finally arrived at our chosen spot at the bottom of Shepherd Hill. Here a rebel breakaway group of three refused to be prised away from our excellent viewing platform, despite Paul's tempting incentive of sausages and burgers at Fewston Farm Shop. The remaining group were rallied back up the hill in the direction of barbecue and alternative viewing venue. After an hour's wait (thanks Penny for queueing valiantly for ice creams), we were finally rewarded by a fantastic view of the breakaway and peleton. (No smugness though!) Battling our way out through some rather steaming motorists, we returned via the Sun Inn and back to Harrogate; no rain, a great atmosphere and about 25 miles. Thanks Paul for route organisation and Alison for back marking. Sue W.







Another Medium Ride

About a dozen of us raced back up the hill (yeah, right) with a view to retracing our steps to Fewston and the café cum barbecue at the Fewston Farm Shop. We were able to grab a bite and a drink and wait for the peloton to arrive, which it duly did about 20 minutes later. A breakaway group of about half a dozen riders were followed after a couple of minutes by the rest. What a spectacle! At least 5 helicopters in the sky, circling in a seemingly pre-determined pattern. The Margolis party stayed behind to recharge their batteries and then had a glorious ride back on a car-free A59, stuffed with cyclists.

The rest ambled back via Pennypot Lane and a cunning meander through Jennyfields.

The forecast heavy showers were nowhere to be seen and a grand day out to see the TdF was had by all. Paul



Peter Jackson's Ride to Blubberhouses to watch Le Tour

Six riders set for a leisurely scenic ride to watch the Tour de France at the Cote de Blubberhouses. The group left Hornbeam park and headed for Ripley via the Green Way. Then it was off to Hampsthwaite going via Clint Bank. Peter R decided to seek out a cup of coffee but he was much too early for such establishments to be open. We then made steady progress from Hampsthwaite, up to Clapham Green and along Menwith Hill road. At the Menwith Hill crossroads we had a small worry as a police van was parked diagonally across the junction and appeared to blocking our path, but it transpired that our route was open. As we started our ride along Duck Street we could see in the distance cars parked in the fields, and after crossing Thruscross reservoir where we met some serious traffic congestion with cars struggling to get parked and others reversing down very narrow lanes. Having overcoming these obstacles we now had to weave our way through all the pedestrians steadfastly walking along Kex Gill Road towards the A59. We arrived just in time to see the tail end of the Caravane, and then it was a case of finding the best place to watch The Tour.

The Tour came and went and then it was back to Harrogate using any of the available routes. PCJ







