

Sunday, August 17, 2014

Wheel Easy Ride Report 433

Short Ride

Nineteen riders assembled in the top car park to do the short ride. Five riders were new to Wheel Easy, so we welcomed them. A discussion then followed re the route and the wind direction and it was decided to do Sarah's planned ride in reverse to avoid going up Norwood Lane to little Almscliffe against the wind. So we set off to St George's roundabout and then on to Ashville and passed the Squinting Cat to Beckwithshaw where we turned left towards North Rigton. After several challenging hills and passing Almscliffe Crag we arrived at Otley Road. A couple of riders were finding things a bit tough (I sympathise after the hills), so Sarah with a few more turned right and took a shorter route back to Hornbeam, the rest of us battled with more hills and strong winds, through Lindley and through Stainburn forest and then with a sigh of relief had a lovely downhill descent back to Beckwithshaw. Three of us stopped for coffee at Betty's at Harlow Carr, the rest riding back to Hornbeam. The ride was hilly and also windy but hope our newcomers enjoyed it (I thought you all looked very young and fit) and hope to see you all again. Distance approx 15 -20 miles dependent on route taken. Lynda M

Medium Ride

We were seven, all blokes, going the right way round, only to find that we'd been outwitted (and outpaced?) by the "slower" group who were aiming eventually to go the wrong way round. We met again twixt Boroughbridge and Ripon as we headed for a caff stop (except Dennis, of course). Then, travelling around Copgrove we passed two non-cafestoppers from the wrongwayrounders. We managed 36-ish miles in weather which was quite decent apart from the occasional gusts of wind. Paul B

Our group had nine or less and to avoid congestion at the start we went via the Hookstone Chase moguls so were able to meet up with Paul's group for a photo shoot above Farnham. We did the route in reverse via Copgrove and the bridle path, at the end of which Max turned left for an early bath and to nurse his cold, fortunately just missing being squished by a falling branch.

The rest turned right to Boroughbridge where the road works on the bridge had traffic lights showing red on both sides and lines of cars with cross looking drivers. For safety we took to the pavement.

At Lanthwaite we had lost three but I found them still going round the Boroughbridge roundabout allegedly thinking that the instruction to turn left meant go straight on! (Or they may have been heading on an egg hunt to Milby but it was too late as Glyn already had them all safely in his rucksack!)

As we headed to Skelton, battling a bit with the wind we were passed by a fit looking bunch of Harrogate cyclists closely followed by Paul and James' group maybe not quite as fit but very careing and concerned about a major problem, having already spoken to the rest of our group. Fortunately the only problem was a misunderstanding that Jen and Glyn's daughter was about to arrive at LBA expecting to be picked up - it was soon discovered that pickup is 1.30am tomorrow but thank you for your concern chaps.

Sue and Caroline headed back from Littlethorpe bridge while the rest rushed to Spa Gardens where we sat out in the sunshine and enjoyed cakes and scones. Home was via Littlethorpe, Burton Leonard, the Mountgarret Estate and the Greenway with only a few drops of rain though the wind was getting stronger. About 37 miles, great day and great company. Liz P



Medium Plus Ride

We were down to seven riders this morning as there was competition from the 100 milers who had set off at 07.00 a.m. The dire warnings about wind may also have discouraged a few, although the Medium cohort looked pretty large as always. We travelled as one to Stutton via Bramham and duly had our picture taken by Gia.

At Stutton Gia, Sue and Kevin headed towards Tadcaster and home and the remaining four were happy to continue on the prescribed route. The Four being Me, David W, Barbara and John.

We had noticed that the wind had been inexorably behind us for the entire morning and cyclists coming towards us seemed to be bent double with pained expressions on their faces but we put this to the back of our minds. It is fair to say that we "stormed" along through Ulleskelf, Ryther, Cawood and Kelfield – morale was high and, indeed, euphoria prevailed. At Riccall we stopped at the Greyhound Inn for "Hot Roast of the Day" sandwiches that were served with roast potatoes and gravy, all for £3.50. Morale still high.

Turning right out of the Pub, we picked up the Selby/York railway track and the whole tenor of the afternoon changed – into wind! We gained some respite on the track but it was a bit of a struggle from Askham Bryan to Wetherby. Barbara and Dave took turns to head the small peloton and John kept a close eye on me as I was visibly flagging! You can tell when you are out-classed because you can see your chums doing figures of eight on the road up ahead to give you a sporting chance of catching up.

John left us at Wetherby Racecourse and we continued along the railway track to Spofforth, again enjoying some respite from the wind before gritting our teeth for the last lap to Follifoot, Ridding Park and Hornbeam. All in all, a good day out and this was the first time David had been "this far south". The wind wasn't *that* bad and we covered 60 miles at an average speed of 12.8 mph. Helen



Long Ride

7.00am at Hornbeam on a cold and showery morning didn't deter eleven riders setting off on the annual 100 miles. Heading north we had our first stop in Weatherspoons Ripon as it opened early and the place was buzzing - good coffee at moderate prices. Onwards and the wind got stronger as we headed initially north then west to East Witton and we climbed on to a lovely ridge road. With the wind behind us we scooted along to Thorpe Perrow for a good lunch. The sun persisted and the showers kept off as we swept south along the Vale of York to Aldwark Bridge, all buoyed up by the promise of afternoon tea at Chez Siswick at Roecliffe. And what an afternoon tea provided by Jan Siswick, we ate royally and everyone was reluctant to move on. So after some cajoling we set off to finish the last twenty miles to round off an excellent 100 miles at a riding average of 13.1 mph. Heroes of the day were Terry Wadkin creditably riding 100 miles well on the pace at an age of - well it is long past 70 shall we say! And Jan Siswick for providing a brilliant tea. Thanks to everyone for keeping up a good pace and good humour all the way, and thanks to Yvonne for providing back up in the car after lunch with cakes, sweets and water. I joked about putting on weight after 100 miles - it has happened! Martin W





Seven riders assembled at Hornbeam Park at 8.30am for today's long ride - the annual Wheel Easy 100-mile ride. The main ride had set off 90 minutes earlier at a 'touring medium plus' pace which - owing to my ignorance of touring medium plus pace - meant I had no idea whether we would see them at some stage. The weather forecast could easily have put some riders off - a Met Office warning of high winds throughout the day, plus some showers which could include thunder! It was certainly cold at the start, and by Ripon we had had a couple of stops to peel some layers off. The ride seemed to be a re-run of last year's ride - with Peter J again taking the lion's share at the front, battling into the wind to our first refreshment stop at Jervaulx tea rooms. By now it was warm enough for us to sit outside in the sun - if you could cope with the wind.

We were then reduced to five as two of the group (Richard L and Mark) returned to Harrogate. In fairness, they had both announced at Hornbeam that they would not be staying with us for the full ride. Shortly after Middleham we reached the most northerly point of the ride, and were delighted to turn east and then south east along No Man's Moor Lane (the Bermuda Triangle of North Yorkshire) with the wind at last lending some assistance. After Snape some cyclists were spotted in the distance which turned out to be the 'touring medium plus pace'

group, What an excellent turn out! Having overtaken them we stopped at Kirklington village green for a 10-minute banana break and photo call, only for the 'touring medium plus pace' group to overtake us - with lots of smiles as they passed. They obviously continued to make good progress as we didn't catch them again until they stopped at Topcliffe.

Richard P left us at Great Ouseburn taking the short way home. The remaining four (Peter J, Martin, Eric & Ernie) arrived at Boroughbridge just before 3pm for our second refreshment stop - sitting out in the tea garden behind Gilchrists café. None of us knew of the tea garden before, but very pleasant it was too! Forty minutes later we were back on the road but after the rest, leg muscles were definitely feeling the effects of battling into the high wind. We had averaged 15.5 mph so far, but our pace now dropped, and once we joined the Greenway at Ripley we dropped down to a very pedestrian pace for the last few miles into Harrogate. We arrived back at Hornbeam at 5.10, having averaged 15.1mph overall. It had been an excellent ride, (many thanks to Martin W for organising it) and whilst we all cursed the wind, it had added to the challenge of the day. Eric W

