

Sunday, August 24, 2014

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 434

---

### Short Ride

Sixteen riders opted for the short ride today. There were so many that we split into two groups to reduce risk. The first group out of the starting stall was led by John Russell and numbered eight in total. The early morning chill soon disappeared. The group went through the showground then down Abbey Road Knaresborough, posing for a joint group picture at Low Bridge, then onto Farnham. The road back into Scriven provided some pleasant views and the group whizzed down Knaresborough main street and onto the coffee stop by the waterfront. The hill out of Knaresborough, home to Harrogate, was then tackled – the climb made much harder from the coffee and cakes! John R

The short ride split into two sections at Knaresborough low bridge. There were nine riders including first timers Judith and John who are relocating from Cumbria. Welcome to you both. Hope you enjoyed the ride today. We look forward to seeing you again.

We followed the route as given. Photo at Scriven attached for proof. We met the rest of the group at the Riversife cafe. The scones were pronounced first rate.

Our group of nine took the Beryl Burton out of Knaresborough and dispersed to go our separate ways at the entrance to the Greenway. Thanks to Malcolm for back marking. Jean B





### **Medium Ride**

"To bike or not to bike? That is not a question."

And today proved the truth of that as the ride up to Brimham Rocks in glorious, clear weather with just a hint of autumn on its way made us feel privileged that we were cyclists on such a day.

The route was ridden in reverse of that published on the website as it gets the climbing out of the way in the first half of the ride (hmmm....I really must meditate more on Rule No.5\*), so we left Harrogate by Knox Bridge, on to Hampsthwaite, up Clint Bank to Burnt Yates and then the long climb up to the rocks where we stopped for a mandatory coffee and refuel. As Bridget said, "No coffee, no ride".

And then the highlight of the ride was the wonderful freewheel down past Warsill. The air was sparklingly clear and we could see the cooling towers at Ferrybridge power station in the far, far distance while to the North West, the hills were purple with blooming heather.

We returned to Harrogate past the Drover's crossroads, Ripley and the Greenway which was busy with walkers, runners and lots of families with kids on bikes. Budding Wheel Easy members, good to see.

A fantastic ride with great company. About 28 miles. Al D

\*The Rules of the Velominati, Keepers of the Cog

### **Medium-Plus Ride**

Today was a pick and mix, mix and match ride as people moved from one group to the other.

Our group of four became eight at Brimham and at the turn for Grantley we lost one and gained two more! All driven by the beautiful day and one of the best rides in our repertoire. The heather on Dallowgill Moor was magnificent and the views all around, majestic.

We were all ready for our lunch at Spa Gardens, then introduced one of the EG's to the route back to the Greenway via the Mountgarret estate. In fact there were many new bits of the ride for many of the riders. In Ripley we met up with some Sunday EG's as shown in one of the pictures.

Many thanks to Richard Leake who stepped in with the idea and the last we saw of him, he and his cohort were heading towards Masham.

Fabulous ride and great company. 46 miles. Gia M



Eight of us set off via the Greenway, Hollybank Woods, Burnt Yates and Brimham Rocks for Dallowgill Moor where the heather is currently quite spectacular. Having gone to the top road to see the best of the heather, we found ourselves overtaken by Gia's supposedly slower group, who stuck to the advertised route. Peter R rallied support for an extension to Masham and Michael and Roy joined Gia's group to return via Fountain's Abbey. The remaining six proceeded to a café stop in Masham (strangely too busy to provide Dave P with any scrambled egg!) and then back via West Tanfield, Hutton Conyers, Ripon, Littlethorpe, Bishop Monkton (where Peter left us) and Knaresborough.

At Harrogate Golf Club, we had a brief debate on the merits of various routes back to Hornbeam. Bill then proceeded to take us on a mystery tour of local cycle paths, via Morrisons car park, the tip and the showground. A total of 58 miles, which for Alex was his longest ever ride by some distance, so well done to him. Great weather and great scenery – Yorkshire at its best (again). Richard L



### **Bridlington Ride**

What a cold start, but everyone was chirpy and up for it, except perhaps Alison who, bless her, was determined to ride with us despite an horrendous cold. We swept along with a tail wind to York and sat on the Millennium Bridge munching snacks as the early morning runners came past and set the bridge bouncing - which was different!

By now layers were coming off as the day warmed up and we sped along through Elvington to Pocklington where we crowded into Costa. It was all too much for the staff who it has to be said were overwhelmed so the delays were long. But Terry and the other group had found a better place and were sat outside enjoying coffee and toasties while we queued and queued.

On our way again and we took the Millington route up through the most fantastic valley and up on to the ridge that dropped down to Tibthorpe. After a second collision of the day, fortunately without too serious an injury, we arrived at Burton Agnes. Nick stood in yet another long queue and other riders were asking about his injuries. That list of bruises and scrapes for some reason put off anyone else in the queue taking any interest in cycling.

Nick however soldiered on after the stop and we all arrived in Bridlington for Fish and Chips. Then a lovely snooze on the coach home. So two heroes - Alison for fighting her cold all the way, and

Nick for getting there and we hope it is all superficial bruising. Thanks to Terry for fixing up a memorable day. Martin W

Martin has said it all really. Terry dragged the "faster" group round a few extra miles at a cracking pace, which began to take its toll towards the end. There were no incidents, except that a stop for a slash was misunderstood as a stop for a flat and later the tail end of the group nearly got separated in Drifffield.

If we got served quickly in Pocklington, we certainly paid for it at Burton Agnes and Terry's favoured chippy in Bridlington. However all in all a very good ride on a well chosen day. Thanks to Terry for his good organisation - and delegation! David



