

Sunday, September 21, 2014

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 438

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### Short Ride

After a couple of grey days the suggestion of sunshine had clearly brought out some eager riders. twenty people opted for the short ride today. Everyone was happy to head towards Fewston and then visit the Farm shop cafe just near the A59. Sally and Linda Mc. each kindly agreed to lead a small group and I brought up the rear with a group.

It was a beautiful morning for a ride as we made our way up Little Almscliffe and down towards the Sun Inn. Just as we reached the end of Pennypot we spied Linda's group who had slightly overshot the turning to the farm shop. Max left us as he was still struggling with a chest infection. The rest of the two groups joined forces and made their way to the Farm Shop. Here, Sally's group were sitting outside tucking into drinks and cakes. Several people were tempted by the smell of bacon. The general verdict was that the bacon sandwiches were delicious, and good value.

There was then a choice of two options for the route home. Everyone opted for the longer route by Forest Moor, Clapham Green, Hampsthwaite and back to Harrogate. Sally again set off with a faster group, so we were surprised to meet up with them at Clapham Green. It turned out they'd missed the gated road at Forest Moor, so done a few extra miles. Sally's group sped off again and the rest of us made our way back to Harrogate either by the Greenway or Knox Bridge. All in all a pleasant ride and lovely to meet some of our newer members . Thanks to Sally and Linda for helping out. Alison N.



### Medium Ride

It was a good Autumn cycling day, a touch of sun and a slight chill in the air to prevent the "boil in the bag" effect when giving that bit extra. First highlight of the day was to see Paul T out on his folding bike for a ten miler. Nice to see you Paul and best wishes from all of Wheel Easy out today.

The riders for the medium ride was split roughly in half with Dave P` s seven being the first away, closely followed by Paul B` s eight or so.

It was to be a ride of ups and downs. The swoop down to Burn Bridge, the climb up to Rigton High Moor cross roads, the swoop down and the climb up to North Rigton, a small down and the

climb to Almscliff Crag and another swoop down to Huby. However instead of passing through Huby to Weeton Station the magnificent seven choose to climb Wescoe Hill and swoop down to Weeton and Dunkeswick, by now most of the swooping and a whooping was over and Paul left us at Kirkby Overblow.

On to Sickinghall for the last swoop down in to Wetherby, where John left us, and in to Morrisons Cafe by 11-30am for lots of goodies (all of them bad for us) with time to put the world to right, before being joined by Paul B and his party.

After which it was north to the Harland Way (note Bill W on his big thick tires) Peter B continued North towards Boroughbridge or was it Scotland, now a passport is not needed. The fortunate foursome continued on to Follifoot, the Showground and that final b\*\*\*\*y hill, but took the bridle way to Hookstone Park (or to some known as ICI Fibres HQ).

A little gem of a ride, not long, only around 30 miles, but all of them quality with magnificent views (we are fortunate living here). Dave P.

As we went up the ramp from the car park we looked down on nigh on twenty souls doing the short ride – more than the total for this one. Dave P took the first lot and we followed to the first wrong turn (how can you get lost in Burn Bridge?). Anyway we made it to Almscliff Crag and, via blackberry picking, to Dunkeswick.

Feeling that we'd done enough hills, it was decided not to go up the steep one to Kearby but to go round via Kirby Overblow. However, we did sneak off the road to Sicklinghall and go David A's route past Woodhall Hotel to Linton/Wetherby. With several cheapskates amongst us, Morrison's was the obvious café stop. Dave P's cheapskates were already there. One of us had Indefinable Cake (supposedly carrot cake but definitely not). Mary Berry would have chucked it the bin. So, having collected milk for the budgies' heads recipe (don't ask), we sauntered up the Harland Way to Spofforth, Follifoot, Ridding and home.

Another grand day out - we've had so many this summer - let's hope it last a bit longer. About 30 miles, including the time imparting said recipe. Paul B



### **Medium-Plus Ride**

Report to follow



### **Long Ride**

A dozen riders assembled at the start of the Long Ride, all prepared for a gentle ride to Bedale. Everything was going swimmingly with Eric W leading at the front, and PCJ at the rear ensuring no one was left behind. At Occaney Lane Eric turned off left heading for Copgrove, due to his Garmin encouraging him to do so. Peter was too far back to correct the mistake, but four riders joined Peter on the original route at Staveley. After a quick text to Eric W he continued to lead his group to Bedale via Roecliffe and Boroughbridge, meanwhile Peter's small band continued on their way to Bedale.

Peter's group found a suitable cafe in Bedale just as Eric's group turned up and so we all settled down to partake of the refreshments. Peter's group all ordered cakes and drinks and were served promptly. Having now been fed and watered Peter's group were eager to get going, unfortunately Eric's group were still waiting to be fed, and that was the last we heard of them, they may still be waiting to be fed.

Peter's group set off on the return journey to Harrogate, and I am pleased to report that it was an uneventful ride back to Harrogate. Peter J

I write this report as a result of a navigational error! I was leading the long ride through Knaresborough and Farnham, and then as we approached Occaney, my Garmin announced that we should be turning left for Copgrove and Bishop Monkton. This came as a surprise, so I announced to the riders I was slowing to get confirmation from the ride leader, and a person at the back of the group in a yellow jacket (which I wrongly assumed was Peter J) put his arm out left, so left we turned. A few miles later it was announced we had dropped several riders, so our seven waited for several minutes, and received a text from Peter J saying he had gone via Staveley to Boroughbridge, so we continued via Bishop Monkton and Roecliffe to get back on course. We reckon our detour had added six and a half miles, which with waiting time would put us a good 30 minutes behind the other group of five. Unwittingly we had become the Long Plus ride.

We average 16.5 mph for the 40 miles to Bedale and arrived just as Peter's group were going into a café. When I announced we had gone like the clappers to catch them up, Glyn replied they had gone like the clappers to make sure we didn't!! Thanks Glyn! Peter's group finished their lunch before we had been served, so they set off and that was the last we saw of them. Mark who had cycled with us on the way there wasn't eating and therefore decided to return with Peter's group,

so we were down to six. Martin who lives in Boroughbridge, left us at Ripon, so five of us went to Spa Gardens for tea and cakes, where we met Wheel Easy members Messrs Watson and Wadkin out on the their Sunday ride. As we were cycling through Ripon, David picked up a puncture so we had a few minutes delay. Shortly after we decided to alter our route from Bishop Monkton to return to Harrogate via Knaresborough, rather than the prescribed route via Markington and Ripley. We also gained an additional rider, Leo from Australia, cycling around the UK for four weeks, and ending his journey tonight in Harrogate, so I escorted Leo to the Travelodge and gave him a guided tour of Harrogate too. Arrived home at 4.30pm, 74 miles. Thanks also to Mike, Barbara and James for the share of taking turns in the lead, and well done to David who had a baptism of fire on his first long ride. Eric W

