

Sunday, October 19, 2014

Wheel Easy Ride Report 442

Short Ride

Eleven riders set off towards Beckwithshaw on a very blustery day. Almost at Beckwithshaw the group voted to split into a team of four and another of seven. Four riders led by Caroline headed off up to Stainburn forest then onto Menwith, returning to Harrogate via Hampsthwaite. I led the remaining seven, who felt the above ride might be a bit too windy and voted to take a more sheltered route.

With this in mind we took a right turn away from Beckwithshaw - a direct route towards Penny Pot lane. Taking the first right along Penny Pot we headed for the busy A59. Having crossed the A59 we were just a downhill ride away from a coffee at Sophie's. At this point seven became five as Kevin and Jane headed off home. Five of us relaxed on Sophie's sofas drinking our coffees. Coffees drunk and homeward bound we then cycled up to Killinghall then along the greenway and back to Harrogate.

A blustery but enjoyable ride with good company. Thanks - 15 miles.



This is the third attempt...the ride report keeps blowing away in the gale force wind that is currently surging round Harrogate. Suffice it to say four determined ladies did not take up the siren call of Sophie but bravely turned left not right at Beckwithshaw, and tacked to Almscliff and Menwith with remarkable ease. This however is where things went slightly wrong, Monica and her bike fell down a pothole. Her fall was worthy of a place in the finals of Strictly Come Dancing with a double twist, a couple of glides, and a lot of bounce. Three minutes later she was surrounded by four abandoned bicycles, three concerned cyclists, two confused police people, and one large chequered police vehicle. Monica eventually declared she would not need an ambulance but could not cycle home, but sadly the police would not take her home. After a few phone calls we found Kevin, who could come and transport her and her bike home. I was relieved not to have to offer to piggy back her back to Harrogate. Rather enviously three of us watched her drive off to safety, as we readied ourselves for a rain squall, gales and Clint

Bank. We sailed home however with a following wind, a glimmer of sun and no more Strictly Come Biking. Thank you Nicola, Monica, and Jill for a surprisingly lovely ride despite foul weather prospects and Monica I hope you are not too shaken up. And a warning for us all: don't go dancing round the potholes of Yorkshire. 24 miles. Caroline G



Medium Ride

The advertised medium ride of 40 miles today (due to the bridge being closed in Great Ouseburn) was revised. An option of 20 miles instead of an alternative 40 miles, was decided upon.

Eleven of us set off from Hornbeam, Malcolm doing a quick pit stop at home to drop off their new Wheel Easy clothing at home having got home decided he might as well wear it!

The sky was blue but the wind was picking up – a few of us even had to pedal down hill past the Squinting Cat! As we reached the turning for Hampsthwaite at Penny Pot Camp, Dennis decided the shortened version was perhaps too short and would be home far too early for his Sunday lunch and carried on towards Swinsty! The rest of us headed towards Hampsthwaite for the first time. The route included a loop which then brought everyone back to Sophie's. Half of the group did the loop whilst five of us headed for butties, buns and coffees!

Malcolm, Martin, David, Mark and I enjoyed our stop in the garden before heading off back to the Greenway and home. By now some showers had set in – even so, a lovely morning's ride, thanks to you all and for Max, for taking over the loop part. SueT



Medium-plus Ride

Thanks to Terry B for leading a faster paced group of pedallers and for choosing not to stop at Beningborough Farm shop. We were therefore, able to sit outside to enjoy our coffee in the sunshine on yet another glorious autumn day. Bridget then took charge to steer us through the myriad of cycle paths through York and then Jill (of Jill's hills fame) led the peloton in to a stiff breeze and back to Harrogate. Thanks to Terry C yet again for his excellent back marking. Sarah C.

Gia, Monica, Jen, Debbie with chaperone Paul P set off toward Beningborough Hall. A very pleasant day with warm sunshine and all the signs of autumn apparent with beautiful trees of every variety and colour. A long and chatty café stop and then off to York. An uneventful homeward journey with a detour through Wighill and home safely - 55 pleasant miles. Ride Captain Sue C



On a bright and breezy autumn morning all were assembled at Hornbeam Park for an impromptu photo that done the faster group of ten or eleven set of for York only to be caught up by everyone else due to a puncture two miles down the road near Calcutt.

With a good tail breeze we were soon beyond Knaresborough and into Great Ouseburn over the rickety bridge being wished a good day by the ever friendly people who man it. Setting a quick pace was easy with a strong tail wind although it was clear that it would be a different story on the way back.

We all decided to give Beningborough cafe a miss and head straight into York for Coffee and cake at the ever popular cafe in Rowntree Park, always seem to be a favourite of everyone's. Once we left and cleared the race course the breeze had really picked up but we made good time all bunched up and soon passed Askham Bryan and Long Marston. Numbers dwindled as we neared Harrogate as fellow riders peeled off and headed home with four or five left we arrived at the showground and finished a great ride on a sunny but very windy day. Anthony P

Long Ride

Long Ride Report –19th October 2014

Six riders were tempted to take part in the inaugural Bronte Country Ride. The omens were not good as Zephyrus, the god of the west wind, decided to take its revenge on us poor cyclists. To avoid the severe crosswinds on the Blubberhouses to Otley Road a diversion to Low Snowdon was called for. We made steady but relatively slow progress to Ilkley where Mark decided to head for home. The remaining five doggedly set off for Silsden and Steeton. At Steeton we encountered our first surprise, in that we took an innocuous left turn signed "To Haworth" and were immediately confronted by a huge steep climb up to Steeton Moor. Undeterred by the gathering clouds we headed towards the bleak Keighley moor. We were now treated to a succession of light showers, bright sunshine, and heavy showers and the ever-present gusty wind.

Eventually we made landfall at Haworth and joined the tourist with a stroll down the cobbled High Street. Then it was off to Oxenhope station for a refreshment stop. The refreshments were served in a restored railway carriage adjacent to the platform. The baked beans on toast were accompanied by the sight and sounds of a steam train.

Miraculously when we left Oxenhope the showers had stopped and the sun had come out. After a short climb we started our return journey and now the wind was at our backs. Amazingly we

managed to cycle at speeds around 35 mph on the flat, and were able to tackle some uphill sections with ease. We made remarkably quick progress from Oxenhope to Bingley via Cullingwoth. Unfortunately the very steep climb out of Bingley through Eldwick to Dick Hudson's slowed us down, but again we were wind assisted from Menston to Otley. Richard P decided that another tea break was called for but Otley was closed, not to be out done Richard P found a cafe near the recreation area on Farnely Lane. It only left the final couple of climbs to complete the ride but the legs were definitely feeling the result of the climbing, we arrived back in Harrogate just after 17:00.

On arriving in Harrogate there was some discussion regarding the statistics for the ride, with different answers depending on which system was used. What follows is an aggregation of the data.

Distance	Elevation Gained	Average Speed	Max Speed	Calories
67miles	7200ft	11.4 mph	39.9	4155

Definitely a summer ride to be repeated in 2015, so book your place now. Peter J



