

Sunday, October 26, 2014

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 443

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### Short Ride

The bright colours of Wheel Easy were complimented by the autumn colours as we set off an hour later thanks to clock changes. A group of fourteen very capable riders, including new rider Andrew, headed off through the Showground to Rudding Lane and over the by-pass to Follifoot. Bringing up the rear and looking after the second group were the Wheel Easy Grandees of Paul, Roy and David. Spofforth Castle looked great with a backdrop of colour, and then we were on the lane to Little Ribston. I dropped back a bit and enjoyed the sight of distant red and yellow figures cycling their way over the hills - magic moments! Heading towards Knaresborough we saw flocks of migrating geese, but why were they flying north-east? The RSPB website says they can be moving between feeding and resting sites, but I am not so sure. Anyone out there know? On to Waterside for coffee where Yvonne on a run (with feet that is!) joined us, and old friends Ann and Keith Benton appeared from York. Finally heading up the Beryl Burton Way the new "sculpture" had us all puzzled. Dave's suggestion of a new pole dancing facility can only be wishful thinking, so again answers as to what it represents will be gratefully received. So two memorable sights and two great questions plus coffee and cake. A top Wheel Easy eighteen mile ride. Martin W.





### **Medium Ride**

Set off in very windy conditions to Kirkby Overblow, Linton and up that little climb up from Collingham! Onto Wetherby and back via Follifoot. 36 miles, Gordon C

Group Two set off at a steady pace and into the wind. Several complaints were directed at the leader at his failure to organise a windless day, which of course was very remiss, but he did promise a following wind on the way home.

Kirkby Overblow was reached after a minor delay to repair a puncture and we made Collingham in good time. And then there were the hills. A slightly more out of breath group arrived at Bramham where we decided to head for Boston Spa and visit the excellent cafe at Thorpe Arch for refreshments. Duly refreshed, we set off up the cycle path to Wetherby where the group split, some going via Kirk Deighton and Little Ribston to Knaresborough while the rest went up the Harland Way to Spofforth and home. A great ride in good company. Pity about the wind. 34 miles, Al D

### **Medium-plus Ride**

Terry kindly escorted the slower group on their very hilly ride in and out of Pateley. Good to have Keith and Helen with us who expanded the route notes for us. We may have diverted from original route but excellent run took us to Heyshaw via Foldshaw Lane and down Yorke's Folly to Tea Cups in Pateley. Here we discovered we had committed the ultimate Wheel Easy sin by not realising that we had lost one with a puncture. However modern technology meant that all was not lost and we regrouped for the journey back. Peter Bradley assured us that Sandy Lane gave us a short cut to Fellbeck, and it did, then we perhaps engineered another short cut by riding along Sawley Moor Lane. Well we had certainly climbed enough hills today and after communing with many of the Graham family with a multitude of bikes, the route back via the Greenway was a restful route home. 38 miles, excellent company, great ride. Gia M

### **Medium Plus – faster pace**

Setting off with the fast boys always worries me. True, this is partly because I'm wondering whether I'll keep up with them but there's a worse danger. All too often, as I pant along, tongue lolling and eyes bulging, someone comes alongside me and starts talking about sprockets. They mention compacts and blocks and set ups. I do my best to look knowledgeable, nodding my head sagely and desperately hoping that I will offer sensible answers to their questions but inevitably the dreaded moment comes. I am asked how many teeth I have. Banishing momentary thoughts of molars and pre-molars, I hang my helmet in shame and admit that I don't know anything at all about my sprockets. Today was different. I enjoyed a great ride in great company without hearing the 's' word once. My relief at this was only heightened by the fact that Terry had appointed me as group leader for the faster ride purely on the strength that I knew where to turn left for Thornthwaite.

We rode to Pateley Bridge at a cracking pace (successfully negotiating the left turn to Thornthwaite) and were about to stop at 'Tea Cups' for coffee but our happy band of six was packed with coffee snobs, so we went round the corner to the 'Lemon Meringue'.

It was only after our break that I realised that I hadn't the faintest idea of where we were supposed to go after Pateley. So, in a fashion more common to my style of leadership, we set off and wandered about. If someone ever put their arm out we turned. If they didn't we went straight on. We managed to tick off places like Glasshouses and Brimham Rocks and Risplith before heading for home along the Drover's Road and the Greenway.

I'm afraid I have no idea how far we went, how many feet we climbed or how many calories we burnt but it was a thoroughly pleasant ride with more or less six members of the club (the number grew and shrank at regular intervals).



### **Long Ride**

Six of us set off for Ampleforth on this fairly blustery morning. Only Peter J opted for the diversion up Wass Bank, with the rest of the group arriving just as the Abbey Tea rooms was about to open at midday. The return route into the wind took in the long climb up Yearsley Bank before dropping down to Easingwold and the familiar ride home via Aldwark Bridge & Great Ouseburn. Thanks to Barbara, Peter, Glynn, Dave S & Dave W for a good ride. Jill F