

Sunday, November 2, 2014

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 444

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### Short Ride

11 set off for the short ride today in glorious sunshine which stayed with us for the whole of the ride.

We set off through the Showground, via Forest Moor Road, Knaresborough. A59 to Flaxby turnoff. At Flaxby we had made such good time we decided we would add on a loop to Boroughbridge. At Arkendale we veered to Boroughbridge for a welcome cafe stop at the bakers shop.

The return journey was via Minskip, Staveley, Farnham and Knaresborough where we all took our favourite option for getting up the hill.

The ride turned out to be about 30 miles. Well done to Jeannie and Richard on their first 30 miler. Jean B.

### Medium Ride

8 riders set off on what promised to be a fine Autumn day (maybe a tad on the windy side) as we made our way to Beckwithshaw and up Norwood Lane. Caroline, Jen and Dennis left us before we turned to Fewston saying most definitely that they would meet us again in Darley. At Fewston car park we met Peter's group and Marion and Nicola decided they liked the sound of the route that Peter was proposing from there. So that just left Glynn, Tim and myself to tackle the hills at Timble and Blubberhouses. We enjoyed a nice cruise after that to Darley (didn't meet Caroline and company) and we carried on to Birstwith and Hampsthwaite. Tim and I stopped for coffee at Sophie's and met up with Marion and Nicola again. So the two became four and we had a pleasant ride home together via Knox. Lovely ride, lovely day.

Monica Webber 30 miles

Monica and I shared leading this ride and divided the group in two which, intentionally or not, had seemed to split along gender lines as I set off and was followed by 6 men and looked round to see Monica and a predominantly female group readying themselves to follow. The wind was slightly against us on the way out and as it was uphill we proceeded at a truly gentlemanly pace to Beckwithshaw, Little Almscliffe and Fewston. We then completed the 'Timble Loop' from the Fewston Car Park Toilets, which in some ways seemed a pointless inclusion by the organisers to force us up a steep hill ~ (North Lane, one rider turned back at this stage) only to bring us back to the start point. But at least we can say 'we were only following orders'. There we met Monica's group; regaled them with horror stories about 'the hill' and hence added two of their number to our group.

We then headed back towards Fewston across the Dam and turned left twice into Busky Dyke Lane (although I think Peter had another name for it). This little-travelled lane had grass in the centre and some potholes cunningly hidden by leaf-fall and lead eventually to the A59, getting steeper and steeper until almost 1:4 in the last 20 yards. Well done for those who climbed it and equally for those who pushed up un-complainingly.

Right on A59 for 300 yards and then left along Meagill Lane until the first left bend. We then turned right off the road onto a paved track and through two sets of red/white barriers and a couple of bridle gates to arrive on Menwith Hill Road just west of the new Foremost School. n.b. This track is a right of way and the barriers usually rise up mysteriously once you approach.

From here it was a brisk ride to Hampsthwaite with the wind on our backs now. Most resisted the lure of coffee and cakes at Sophie's and so we were back in Harrogate by 12:30, having completed 26 miles in good sunshine for most of the time.

I changed the advertised ride slightly by omitting the Squinting Cat and by including Busky Dyke Lane. There are many other changes which Ride Leaders could make to this basic route to add interest or take account of the conditions on the day - be experimental and keep your followers guessing !! Peter L.



### **Medium Plus Less Leisurely Group**

Only four riders were keen to join me in the less leisurely section of today's Medium Plus ride. John, Paul and two whose names escape me - George and Ringo? This left a largish group with Dave S., but he seemed happy with that.

It was a pleasant morning as we left Hornbeam and headed for the Greenway, where wet leaves were an added hazard to the usual dogs and walkers. After a brisk ride up Scarah Bank and on

past the Drovers as was, John had a puncture. We were surprised that in the 15 – 20 minutes it took to fix, the slower group didn't catch us, but it was not long after we arrived at the Fountains NT café that they turned up too. The five of us were all up for the hillier onward ride and headed on for Sawley and Brimham. At the Brimham turn off the Pateley Br road, I suggested a longer route to Smelthouses and up the hill to Brimham Rocks. John and Paul were keen, but George and Ringo were both fearful of trouble if they returned home late, so took the shorter route. The Smelthouses hill was tough, but it was a more or less downhill blast from there on and we were back in Harrogate by 13.30, having covered just 37 miles even with the extension. D.W.

### **Medium Plus More Leisurely Group.**

This turned out to be a most popular choice, as can be seen from above. There were loads of riders; too numerous to make a mental note of their names; too numerous to even count. So we just went on our way.

Gentle riding, a great mix of riders, an absence of competitive behaviour, and an early break at Fountains for a cuppa, all contributed to a pleasant morning.

The weather continued to smile on us, and we returned to Harrogate having lost quite a number to more adventurous options, but I was home in time to cut the grass, have my tea, and still enjoy the Austin Grand Prix.

Thanks to everyone who was on the ride for yet another most pleasant day out. Dave S.



### **Long Ride**

With only the briefest of pre ride info 6 set off for Pateley. Seeking wind shelter took us through Wydra and Busky Dyke to the A59, Delves signal barrier, operated by horses seemingly, Dairy lane to Dacre top, and down Yorkes Folly for early food at Lemon Tree. Without Mark who was to test Toft Gate and its excellent reports, but almost at the top of Greenhow.

At Lofthouse the wind behind was used to get us up, though plenty of fine views to cause

pauses.

Ahead of schedule and sans punctures, and white shoe riders, the previously abandoned Breary Banks WW1 bp was taken to Gollinglith and its ford, but we used the hidden bridge. Apologies to the stunned rabbit that almost derailed the leader at Fearby. Past Swinton Castle walls and the superb tarmac to Nutwith Common.

The previously noticed cafe at Grewelthorpe was tested, fine and excellent dance floor and Lottery conversion with WW1 exhibition.

Clearly the food worked as all shot off for Ripon, once we had passed the ducks, fearing more off road (none that I recall) most fled for home leaving Richard and cramping Phil to go via Fountains.

Home in day light, just and as drizzle was imminent. Thanks for an other great day riding and weather and allowing my indulgences of showing new routes! 66m 5100 ft Richard



