

Sunday, November 9, 2014

Wheel Easy Ride Report 445

Short Ride

The "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness" gave way to bright skies and warm sunshine as the fifteen Short Riders broke into groups and sallied forth from Hornbeam. The going was a little slippery through the woods to the Showground but, thankfully, given recent Wednesday mishaps, all reached the summit of Ridding Lane unscathed. There were strange noises from John's and Sue's wheels but these were resolved by, in John's case stone extraction and in Sue's "I'll just keep going"! Max gave excellent back markership and we had a photographic moment outside the Millennium gate in Spofforth. Graham found a very suitable gateway and we observed a two minute silence – a poignant time for Dennis whose brother in law had been killed aged 17.

The coffee for all decision was made. Dennis said he would carry on home via Chain Lane and the Outer Hebrides – pretty good going for someone who was chief bonfire stoker in Sheffield last night. He certainly looked very well for a lad who said he'd had a heavy night! Coffee, scones (scoans even), teacake and jam were taken at a carefully selected table by the fire at Marigold. The sun was shining on the Nidd causing the most beautiful reflections so cameras were to the fore.

The group then broke to take varying routes. Barbara had to go and prepare a presentation for Tuesday. Max had already left for band practice – mega competition next weekend. Val and Kevin, John and Sarah opted for the Delights of Beryl Burton and the rest of us returned via Bogs Lane and the Stray paths.

Thank you for super company and to those off to the Caribbean, have a wonderfully relaxing time! Follifoot > Little Ribston > Knaresborough 15+ Miles. Sue Downes







Medium Ride

On yet another beautiful autumn morning 20 riders got together to explore the delights of Nidderdale. Paul had identified a cafe just near Summerbridge which we decided to try. We set off in 3 smaller groups agreeing to meet at the cafe. The third group were surprised to see a Wheezy rider striding along the footpath at Little Almscliffe. It turned out to be Martin on a quest to find the owner of a lost dog. We decided to keep going and to leave Martin's group to resolve the issue. Unfortunately, we don't yet know the outcome. Hopefully they found the owner. We bid farewell to Caroline, Allison and Gordon at Strike Lane as they decided not to stop. We made our way to Birchfield Ice-cream parlour where we met up with Paul's group. We all enjoyed cakes and a hot drink, though the icecream was tempting. Well fortified, we sped up Strike Lane, past Brimham Rocks and in no time we were at Ripley. Then, back to Harrogate where we all made our separate ways after another great ride in cheery company, 35 miles' Alison N [photos courtesy of Paul]





Medium Ride Extra Dog Rescue

Enjoying a short break at Little Almscliffe Crag four of us spotted a dog looking rather sad and wandering about on the moorland. Oddly it still had a lead attached to it's collar, and we were concerned that something had happened to the owner. A quick walk to the crag and a look around established that no-one had obviously come to grief, and by then Steve was making friends with the sad mongrel bitch. We think she had been out all night. So what do you do when you are 8 miles from home with a dog who has adopted you? We eventually found the out of hours phone for HBC Dog Warden service, and a guy from Pateley Bridge picked up the dog and took it back to his kennels. Now having stood around for the best of an hour we were chilly despite the sunny day. So a brisk ride to Sophie's was our reward and then we headed back through Hollybank Lane to Ripley and Harrogate. Definitely a different day. Thanks to Steve, Steve and Chris for their company and help. Martin W



Medium+ Ride

Only 13 riders for the Medium Plus, divided in to a faster group of 8 led by Daves and a slower Exclusive 5.

We sauntered through to Collingham, and after the bump of Jewitt hill enjoyed some watery sunshine in Clifford and Boston Spa. Unfortunately we met the remnants of the fast boys who were thoughtfully and carefully supporting a fallen rider - in true Wheel Easy fashion.

After refreshment at Thorpe Arch the Exclusives were joined by Charlie, who stayed with us along the lanes of Cowthorpe and Spofforth. Well done to Jane and Alison on their first Medium Plus and first over 40 mile ride (42 miles). It'll be 50 in the Spring sunshine. Thanks to all. Sarah C

In true fashion, we were enjoying yet another great Autumnal day when Jill hit the dust big time. Transport was organised, those of our team with medical savvy recommended A&E. The rest of the ride was somewhat subdued, and it was home to a relatively early bath.

Jill has been discharged but I think she'll be sore for a while. Thanks to all for assistance; the team work was excellent. We should have been alerted by the date (even though this is the English version). Dave S



Long Ride

Six riders left Hornbeam but increased to seven when we picked up Eric Waters en route. We made steady progress via Harewood to Otley Chevin. At The Chevin we stopped for the two minutes silence. Now it was on to Ilkley moor via Menston and then onto Bolton Abbey we stopped at The Strid Tea Rooms as The Abbey Tea Room was full. At Barden Tower some riders took the shorter route to Stump Cross, and the others took the longer route via Burnsall. While climbing past Parcevall Hall we caught up with Peter Roberts who was out on a solo ride. Having joined us

Peter R stayed with us for the rest of the ride. At Stump Cross Caverns the ride divided up some returning to Harrogate and the remaining riders sampled the biggest and best cheese scones in Yorkshire and the wonderfully named Rainbow cake. Now fully refreshed we made steady progress back to Harrogate. PJ.



Colin's Off Road Ride

We set off from Pateley bridge in fine form and excellent weather, on road past Bouthwaite reservoir, with the trees in autumn colours and the sunshine on the water. Through Ramsgill, over the bridge and immediately right, marked sternly "no through road".....Ah, but it is for us! A steep, rough climb up onto the moor top, pausing to take a layer off and a photograph. Coldstones Cut, Great Wherside, Pockstones Moor all appeared behind us, as Bouthwaite Reservoir became veiled in valley mist. From the moor top, the Vale of York was full of mist, as we were in sunshine. Dropping down towards Ilton, a farmer was feeding his bullocks..."You want to stay ont' tops, to-day, its misty int' 'ole" he said. But theres a tea stop in Masham.....

From Masham to Fearby by road, then the Leeds Pals memorial (it seemed rude not to, being Remembrance Sunday, and all)No through road?.....heard that one before.....bridlepath to Gollinglith Foot, then the Old Coal Road, where we stopped at a thoughtfully-provided shooters' rest for a sandwich.....also used by the local owl, judging by the pellets. Then on and up to the end of the road, and a surprisingly clear track to Little Haw, where we left the bikes to climb to the boundary stone, for a genuine 360 deg un-interrupted view. Bumping and sliding through the heather on a track of sorts, we arrived at the high track overlooking Scar house Reservoir, between a sheep pen and an old mineshaft of unfathomable depth.....exactly right by the map. Its a good shooting track, past the shooter's rest dressed up to look like a chapel from the Scar House road below, onto the Lofthouse road, where it was lights on for the drop down into Lofthouse, then Ramsgill and Pateley. On the tracks, we saw 2 bikers and 2 walkers all day, and the car park at Scar House was empty as we looked down on it.....so where have all these cars come from? Back to the cars about 5 o'clock, proper dark.

Photo....not the Grand Canyon, but the Old Coal Road in the afternoon sun....more... Colin T.





