

Sunday, November 23, 2014

Wheel Easy Ride Report 447

Short Ride

Nine riders set off on a damp morning on the short ride. From Hornbeam to Leeds Rd traffic lights, down Leadhall Lane turning right to the cycle track to Ashville, then past the Squinting Cat (I love that downhill stretch) onto to Beckwithshawe and finally up the steady incline to Little Almscliffe Crag. A short rest was then appropriate. We then went over the bridge, turned right onto the nice quiet road and cycled to the Otley Road. I did think there might have been some mist or fog to spoil the views but it really was nice to see the hills in the distance. We then cycled past the Sun Inn and on towards Penny Pot Lane. A discussion was then held, do we then go to the farm shop for coffee and then come back and go home via Penny Pot (the shorter option) or go to farm shop and then onto Hampsthwaite. Everyone seemed to be in agreement to go on the longer ride and go to Sophie's instead of farm shop, except for Sue who needed to be home early. Sue therefore left us and set off down Penny Pot. Thanks Sue for letting me know later by text that you got home safely. The remaining eight riders set off, past the farm shop and onto A59, which was very busy so turning right to go to Forest Moor was a little difficult especially when we were hooted by a very impatient fast car driver even though we had given plenty of warning of our right turn. He did in fact give us several hoots, perhaps his Sunday lunch was going cold !!. We then went through Forest Moor onto Hampsthwaite, stopped for coffee at Sophie's and a nice chat, then up Clint Bank, through Hollybank woods onto the Greenway, where the sun came out for us, and finally back to Hornbeam, with riders peeling off as they got near to their abode. 26 miles in total. Lynda McL



Medium Ride

Quite a big turnout at Hornbeam. It was a little grey and overcast, a little chilly, but there was not much wind and sunshine was forecast for the afternoon. 20-ish opted for the medium ride to Brimham, so Justin took the first group and Geraldine and I the second, with many regulars and

a newcomer (well, a newcomer to me, at least), David. Glyn loosely attached himself to the group, but indicated that he might well go his own way at some stage.

Through town to the ASDA cycle path and along the Greenway. We got mixed up with the medium plus ride at Ripley, but we turned left and followed the path through Hollybank Wood (where we ran into Geraldine's son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter out for a walk). Monica Webber had been in the medium plus group, but had stopped in Ripley and mistakenly gone through Hollybank Wood, so she decided to join up with us rather than retrace her route. Up Clint Bank, left onto the Pateley Bridge Road and then right on the down-then-steadily-up route to Brimham. We met Justin's group coming back down from Brimham as we ascended. Having arrived at the entrance to the Rocks, a brief discussion ensued about how to return. The official route was back down the way we came (which Justin's group took) and then right to Hartwith, but several members, including Caroline, were rather in favour of carrying on and returning via Warsil/Warren House and Careless House Farm and down towards Ripley, so we did. At the Drovers crossroads the group split, 5 going on down to Ripley, and 5 of us turned right towards Bishops Thornton, Shaw Mills (it felt a bit strange going down the Cut Throat Lane hill) and then across the Pateley Bridge Road and back down Clint Bank and left into Hampswthwaite to Sophie's. Justin's group was just leaving as we arrived, and Linda's short group were well ensconced and tucking into the refreshments. Up the hill out of Hampsthwaite (the potholes have been well repaired) and then back via Knox. About 30 miles. CPS





Medium Ride 2

Eleven of us in the first of two Medium groups, out in the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness. Some hills - after the Greenway it was up to Burnt Yates and Brimham Rocks. Some free wheeling to compensate, through Hartwith and Birstwith. Scenes pleasing to the eye as the clouds lifted. Sophie's at just the right time. The sun broke through as we headed out of Hampsthwaite. Alison showed us how to get back onto the Greenway without going up Clint Bank, much appreciated by all. Perfect. Special thanks to Paul, our excellent lanterne rose. Justin

Medium Plus Ride

I live in mortal dread of being the one who gets left behind in the lavatory. Unfortunately, today, this is exactly what we did to Monica after confusion reigned over the re-grouping arrangements in Ripley. Fortunately, we had been mingling with the Medium group on the Greenway, en route to Brimham Rocks, so Monica was able to link up with them and hopefully have a nice ride. They

were obviously running a much slicker, more efficient operation than us! In our defence, this is the first time we have (a) actually lost someone and (b) found ourselves, as leaders, left behind! So, after a slightly inauspicious start, we did have a lovely autumn ride on a slight variation of a route to Fountains Abbey, via Sawley, Risplith, High Grantham and Low Grantham where we all declined the Exhibitionists' Loo Stop (see photo). There were plenty of short, sharp hills so we were ready for a coffee stop at Fountains, which was a very pleasant, convivial affair. At this point Gia, Paul and Martin opted to head off on a more direct route home and we continued on the advertised route through Ripon, Littlethorpe, Bishop Monkton, Burton Leonard, Farnham, Knaresborough and home.

As forecast, the blue sky and sunshine had been sneaking up on us from the West throughout the afternoon and we finished in perfect, golden Autumn conditions – home in time for a plate of molten cheese on toast! Helen & Keith





Medium+ Faster Group

Medium Plus riders with less leisurely aspirations were directed towards our leader, Terry and seven of us left Hornbeam on a damp grey morning with the promise of better weather later. After very cautious progress along the wet and leafy Green Way, we arrived at Ripley, where Terry announced that he was feeling off colour and decided to pull out. The remaining six carried on, none of us too sure about the exact route to be taken. We passed through Sawley, Grantley (not Grantham) and Galphay and made for the cheap and cheerful Spa Gardens café, which was as good as ever and unusually quiet. All agreed that "undulating" was a bit of a euphemism for the ride so far. Revitalised, we set off back for home and after the ordeal of Knaresborough Hill, all seemed to have enjoyed the ride, even if our route had been a bit shorter than the advertised 40 miles. We all send our best wishes to Terry for a speedy recovery. D.W.

Long Ride

Congratulations to the choreographer of this superb late season route, which I both recommend and replicate in full (just in case it disappears from 'ride routes') We followed it to the letter, save for a couple of minor navigational eccentricities and to deviate to take in the 'Greenway' from Bishop Monkton, via Markington on the homeward leg.

Beckwithshaw, Menwith, R then Stumps Lane to Darley, R to Hartwith Bridge, L then R up Stripes Lane, Brimham, L on B6265, R at Fellbeck, Laverton, Kirby M, R to Ringbeck, Swinton, Masham (lunch stop) out across river, turn L then R to Snape, Carthorpe, Kirklington, Wath Hutton C and Ripon.

9 riders had a joyous day, filled with hills, laughter, stunning scenery, full late autumn sunshine and the ever present Wheel Easy teamwork. Thanks to all for a great day. 70 miles. Sarah C.







Long Ride 2,

6 of us set off from Hornbeam Park on the long ride. The weather was typical for November, overcast and fairly cool, but at least it was dry. As we passed Moor Hall, Beckwithshaw, starting the climb up to Little Alms Cliff, Peter R joined us increasing our number to 7. Close to Brimham Rocks, as we reached the top of Stripe Lane, we could see the Wheel Easy medium ride approaching from Burnt Yates, having taken a more direct route there. After Brimham Rocks, Mark made his way back to Harrogate, so we were back to 6 again. We arrived at Masham at 12.30 to find Johnny Baghdad's café full - mainly with the Wheel Easy' group (led by Sarah) which had set off at 8.45am - so we went to the Border Café where another group of cyclists were vacating a table. We were there much longer than expected, partly because it was so busy, but exacerbated by the staff overlooking Phil's order. Fair do's - they offered Phil his meal free of charge by way of an apology! So eventually we were back on the road. Peter R and Richard P made their way back to Harrogate by the most direct route, leaving 4 of us on the prescribed

route via Snape, Carthorpe, Kirlington, Wath and Hutton Conyers to Ripon. As we descended Ure Bank to Ripon, I found we had been reduced to 3, and after waiting a few minutes for Phil to arrive, it was obvious that I would have to go back up Ure Bank on a search and rescue mission. I found Phil at the top of Ure Bank,, surrounded by Sarah's group, who had mysteriously arrived without us overtaking them on the road! Glyn and Dave W continued on their journey and eventually Phil and I were under way again, arriving home at 4.15pm, having covered 70 miles at an average speed of 13mph.

Many thanks to Sarah C for volunteering to lead today's long ride at a more relaxed pace, setting off 45 minutes earlier than usual. It was wonderful to see this ride being so well supported with 9 riders, i.e. more than we had on the regular ride! Surely this is clear evidence that within Wheel Easy there is the demand for 2 long rides every week, providing options of speed (as happens on other Wheel Easy rides), and start time. It just needs volunteers to set up a rota of long ride (medium pace) leaders. Well done Sarah! Eric