

Sunday, November 30, 2014

Wheel Easy Ride Report 448

Short Ride

What a beautiful day! Eleven cyclists gathered in the top carpark – the habitual departure point for “Shorties” but as the weather looked set fair, the longer option (25 mi but actually 26.6, sorry!) was taken up. We negotiated the potholes, roadworks and red lights and eventually gathered at the junction beside the Union. It was then right onto the smooth surface of Thistle Hill before crossing the A658 and disappearing down the rather muddy steps and through the hedge onto the old road to Follifoot. Alan expressed amazement that in all his and Jean’s years of driving along the ringroad, they had never spotted the hole in the hedge! Carefully avoiding dog-walkers, we coasted along and then descended/ascended to Follifoot. Jeremy displayed his ornithological knowledge and pointed out a circling buzzard. The rest of us concentrated on avoiding the proliferation of roadkill. We sped on through Spofforth and thence to Little Ribston on the route known as the “Sloe Gin Trail” because of former gatherings of berries eventually to become liqueur for the Spa Gardens Christmas lunch. At the Brethren Church gateway, the decision to keep going was confirmed although sadly, Kevin, who had been a wonderful hedge marker and gate opener had to return to work and Sarah left to visit her son. Upward and onward through Scriven, Lingerfield, Scotton and Brearton; we spotted a display of flying ducks who quacked their encouragement from on high. At Ripley, there was dereliction of duty as I (plus Jean B) left seven cyclists to the mercies of coffee and “scoans”. I did leave my mobile number and I have heard nothing so assume all was well...

A most enjoyable morning – thanks to intrepid players.

Sue D



Medium Ride

There were 16 takers for the medium ride and Paul kindly offered to take a faster group while I followed at a more leisurely pace. From Stainburn Forest car park there were 11 of us and mindful of recent accidents we proceeded at a sedate pace through the forest and down the muddy farm

road. After the forest there was a cranking sound coming from my bike and, after various investigations from accompanying mechanics, it was finally diagnosed at Huby but inoperable en route which means they had to put up with the noise all the way home! Having assumed that we would not be able to have a coffee stop others had discovered Braythorn Honey Farm was open so 8 of us turned off to partake while Dennis, Caroline and Max proceeded onwards. We were made very welcome at Braythorn and Paul's group of 5 were well ensconsed and able to recommend the best cakes! Dragging ourselves away from Braythorn we continued to Almscliffe Crag, Huby, Weeton and Kirby Overblow enjoying the wonderful views of Wharfedale and the sunshine. Strava says 27 miles and 1565ft of climbing. Liz P





Medium Plus Ride

Blue skies and sunshine were a welcome sight after the general dreariness of the preceding days and 9 riders set off cheerfully towards Arkendale. Shortly after that Paul left us for social obligations, and the rest cycled onto Great Ouseburn and had our photo taken on the green. Martin, Yvonne and John took the shorter route to Boroughbridge and the remaining 5 enjoyed the longer route there via Youlton, Myton and Helperby. A decision was made to go to the bakery for our coffee stop and luckily there was a bit of a lull by the time we were ready to order. It

seems we definitely went for the more healthy option judging by the faster Medium Plus group experience. Graham and Nikki said goodbye as they decided to head back to Knaresborough from there. Only 3 left – am I that bad as a ride leader! Colin led us along the bridle path to Burton Leonard and a different way to Markington and both Debby and myself enjoyed the variation on the route. On home via Ripley and the Greenway and all agreed it had been a most enjoyable and uplifting day out. Monica Webber Approx 50 miles

Medium Plus Less Leisurely Group

It only seems a week since I last had the pleasure of writing this report and indeed it is! This morning's sunshine brought out plenty of riders, both for Wheel Easy and on the roads in general and after dire warnings of slippery conditions and recent mishaps, nine of us set cautiously out in the Medium Plus Less Leisurely Group for our dose of vitamin D. Two soon pulled out at Low Bridge and no offence was taken.

With a lady in our ranks in the form of Julie E, the level of chatter was significantly higher than normal – hopefully not picked up by GCHQ. Good progress was made as far as the closed road at Aldwark, after which, following the diversion signs, we found ourselves arriving in Aldwark from the rear end. Julie was keen to show us the interesting church, but the majority of Atheists in the group voted against and we retraced our steps to the correct route, having clocked up a couple of extra miles. By Norton le Clay the smell of bacon butties was in the air and we upped the pace to Tasty Snacks, where most, undeterred by the globs of fat dripping from the extract fan, opted for one of the high cholesterol options that are their speciality. Fighting back the heart attacks we pressed on towards Ripley, where Terry's chain snapped. Fortunately he was well prepared and quickly mended it for the last leg along a busy Greenway.

An enjoyable ride on a lovely end of November day and about 53 miles covered at a decent pace. D.W.



Long Ride

We left or lost Glyn, thanks for rushing home to do his facebook write up, and others at Boat Lane, but sti lin a majority sped on to Whixley and the rail gates. Dave S left for a longer route to Hornbeam and we were home on 67m for 230 having got

back the average post lunch to that pre at the impressive library cafe.
Thanks to all early risers , and the sun. Richard
Sunday's Autumn Tints long photo

