

Sunday, February 22, 2015

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 460

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### Short Ride

Cold, bit windy, but good for a ride through Tang past Paradise Row up to Millstones. There was Bridget, Barbara, Collette, Sarah, Jo, Richard, and Angela, which is good for me as I never remember names. Unfortunately Barbara came off going over a sleeping millstone, bruised but there was cake, coffee and walnut, chocolate, victoria, scones and of course paradise slice. Return via Pennypot. About 19 miles. Just got back before the sleet. Good company. Paul R



### Medium Ride

Two groups of seven passed through Burn Bridge and Kirby Overblow with Alison N leading the first group. With weather warnings about we decided on a meeting at Sicklinghall and four riders decided to go back from Collingham while the rest wanted to follow the original route, though hearing that the bridge was closed at Boston Spa no-one opted for Thorp Arch! So it was Bramham and down the A1 cycle track to the Shambles in Wetherby where nine of us were warmly welcomed and well fed.

Andrew had assured us that the Wetherby - Spofforth cycle track was OK and it was, but may not be after the rain! It was raining as we approached Harrogate but all of us should have reached shelter before the heavy stuff began. 31 miles. Thanks to everyone for a great ride and company. Liz P



### **Medium-Plus Ride**

Roger kindly agreed to be the ride leader and seven of us set off immediately, hoping to return before the rain forecast for 2.00 pm. After safely negotiating Starbeck and Knaresborough - not easily done when the local branch of the 'Impatient Drivers Club' was out in full force! We were passed by a large group of Cappuccino cyclists who sped into the distance. This had the immediate effect of setting a quick pace for the most of the ride. Boroughbridge was deemed to be too early for a refreshment stop, so Tadcaster was proposed and we were off. Martin left us at Cattall for a prior appointment. Legs were tiring now and as the Cafe at Boston Spa was closer, we decided to stop there, but we arrived to find it full. Never mind, The EGs favourite of Morrison's cafe was not too far away. After a fine selection of big and medium breakfasts, bacon butties, currant teacakes and drinks we were ready for the return journey. Unfortunately, the wind had increased in strength and the rain had started earlier than forecast as we set off back home. I returned back to Leeds with snow falling as I approached home. I hope the rest of the

party had a safe journey back to Harrogate. Many thanks to Roger, Paul, Tony, Martin, Dave and Richard for helping to make it a good ride out. Glyn F.

### **Medium+ Ride (steady section)**

Our little group had a very pleasant ride out to Rocliffe for elevenses chez Siswick and on to Ouseburn where a democratic decision was sought. Four abstentions and one vote in favour of a shortcut return produced the right result and we just reached Hornbeam ahead of the worst of the Wintry weather, which arrived as predicted. Thanks Sue, Jill, Debby and Bill for good company and interesting conversation. Dave S.



### **Long Ride**

Four of us pedalled our way towards Farnham and Ferrensby and at Arkendale we were joined by Paul who'd benefited from a later start. Just beyond Sutton on the Forest, Eric and Mike caught us up and sped on to Castle Howard, whilst we took advantage of Terry's local

knowledge to start our return journey at Sheriff Hutton, cycling through Whenby and on to the impressive Brandsby Hall. Lunch was taken in Easingwold and the rather vigorous Beetroot and Parsnip soup, which initially threatened to make its presence felt again on the hill up from Knaresborough was in fact soothingly absorbed. From Brafferton the weather turned decidedly wintry. Paul happily left us in Boroughbridge for an early bath at home and who should we then hear singing on his way up Knaresborough hill but Eric. 63.3 miles clocked by Rob. Thanks to all for keeping the day cheerful. Sarah C



My long rides have been blighted with poor weather recently. Both my December and January rides were cancelled due to bad weather, so could I hope for third time lucky? In anticipation of better weather, I had decided on a 74-mile ride to Castle Howard - should be delightful with snowdrops and early daffodils enhancing a lovely Spring day....or so I thought. As the weekend approached it was clear that I had, yet again, put a jinx on the weather: the Met Office issued severe weather warnings for Sunday! I therefore prepared three options for reducing the length of the ride, so Plans B, C and D were available depending on when the bad weather would arrive.

But would the ride actually take place? At Hornbeam, Dave W announced he was the only person willing to go on the long ride, and then added that it wasn't worth doing it with just two of us, so he too deserted me. I therefore left Hornbeam as a Billy No Mate and was wondering whether I should chase after Sarah's group that had set off 30 minutes earlier (Plan E), or return home and paint the bathroom ceiling (Plan F). Then I heard a call of "Eric" from behind and found Mike B cycling after me. So Plan F was dropped. As we proceeded I talked Mike through Plans B, C, D and E. Mike then explained he was working through the 'Eddington Challenge', and has to complete 71 rides of at least 71 miles, before he can move to the next challenge: 72 rides of 72 miles. He had come on my long ride to complete another ride of at least 71 miles - so that immediately cancelled Plans B, C D and E! We would have to complete the full 74 mile ride, irrespective of the conditions!

We made good progress and caught up Sarah's group shortly before Sheriff Hutton whilst they were looking at maps and working out a shorter route. Mike and I continued and arrived at Castle Howard at noon, feeling very pleased with both our progress and also with the weather, which had been very kind to us so far. We emerged from the café 30 minutes later to find light rain just starting. This continued until 2pm, by which time we had reached Brafferton, and the rain became very heavy as forecast. At Thornton Bridge our direction changed to South West, and straight into the strong wind and rain for the final 20 miles home. In Knaresborough I caught up with Sarah and Peter B, and we cycled together for the final few miles, arriving home at 4pm. For the record Mike and I had completed 75 miles from home, the temperature was 1 degree C, with a strong wind chill making it feel well below freezing. Mr Ellington was well

satisfied, and once I had got some feeling and warmth restored to my body parts, I could finally start painting the bathroom ceiling. Eric W