

Sunday, March 1, 2015

Wheel Easy Ride Report 461

Short Ride

Cancelled due to weather conditions.

Medium Ride

Dire weather forecasts meant all official rides were cancelled but there were a good number of riders at Hornbeam wanting to brave the elements. Nine of us decided to attempt the published route with the option to return as soon as necessary! We proceeded through the Showground to Low Bridge, Farnham (where Peter left us to do a more sheltered ride), Arkendale, Marton and the Dunsforths with the wind behind us and enjoying the sunshine. Going towards Aldborough we had a taste of what was to come and all headed to the cafe in Boroughbridge for sustenance. Unfortunately James and Neil's food failed to appear so they went home hungry! We returned via Roeclyffe, Copgrove and Knaresborough, hard going into the wind at times, especially on the bridle path to Copgrove but we all managed and at least no more than a few drops of rain to contend with. About 32 miles and home before the heavy rain and in time to watch the rugby for those who wanted to. 2 photos 1 at Copgrove and the other Paul posing either for the calendar or "looking funny for money"! Liz P





Medium-Plus Ride

Despite the low turnout, the 'show must go on' - and I was determined to lead a Medium Plus ride. My description of the proposed amended ride attracted ZERO interest, so just my mate Dave and I were a quorum (and anyway he had come from Leeds specifically to do the ride). I decided to jettison the Gallowgill loop due to weather conditions leaving a ride basically North-South with the wind on our flank in each direction. This proved a good idea and combined with strategic use of hedges and banks meant the wind hardly impeded us at all.

Today was noticeable for seeing far fewer cyclists than recently - and also not many cars, although the Ripley cycle path was full of dogs. Reaching Ripley we headed up Scarah Bank and Watergate Road to the rear entrance to Fountains Abbey. We stopped in Aldfield to visit the remarkable little church - interesting box pews, 3-decker pulpit and many memorials to childhood mortality in days past. Then it was through Winksley and to Laverton. As we admired the snowdrops on the river Banks, some Cappuccino past us - AND SAID 'GOOD MORNING' - it must have been the sunshine or the spring flowers. At Kirby Malzeard the weather was SO good, we decided to include a loop to Masham. The picture is of the view from Hackfall Woods across the Vale of Mowbray - a clear Spring Day (photos can't capture the wind speed).

After an excellent feed-up in Johnny Baghdad's cafe (which was almost full as usual), we climbed over to Snape (wind assisted) and headed back through Carthorpe, Wath, Hutton Conyers (n.b. Conyers was the name of the family who owned these villages in Mediaeval times), Ripon, Bishop Monkton etc. The wind was more of a hindrance on this leg but we made a good speed with the rain eventually settling in around Farnham.

At least 75% of the ride was in sunshine and just the last half hour was wet. 53 miles (longer than advertised) but a great ride to complete on what was a less than promising day. I will re-schedule the Gallowgill loop for later in the year. PeterL



Long Ride

Today's route had been planned around visiting a new café, but with plenty of options to shorten is as the weather forecast was so dire. As I was hit by a short sharp shower on the way to Hornbeam there was even the possibility that no one would turn up, but true to form several people did. Seven set out with two more due to meet us at Farnham. Peter left us at Burton Leonard having suffered with mudguard problems that couldn't be dealt with at the roadside and Bill opted for a café stop in Ripon. The remaining seven continued on to Boroughbridge where the decision was made to take the most direct route to the café in the hope of avoiding the worst of the rain that was forecast and getting home in time for the rugby for some. It was then a swift wind assisted ride to the Purple Partridge in Raskelf where a pleasant, but slightly longer than anticipated stop was taken with Eric getting a somewhat larger lunch than anticipated! It was then a hard ride back into the wind or with some strong crosswinds, but the group stuck together and I certainly appreciated the help! In the end the weather was much better than anticipated; we even saw some sun and the rain only came in the last few miles and all were glad that they had decided to come out. A good winter ride of around 52 miles in good company.
JF



Notes from Spain - Terry Cushley

Following my epic day I went out walking with Sue (though I still managed 25kms on the bike doing the shopping run) along the Via Verde (Greenway) which is an old railway line that used to run from Denia to Gandia and was called the Orange Blossom Train because of all the orange groves it passed through. About 8kms have been converted as a shared path and when the orange blossom is out it truly is spectacular both in sight and smell.

For me the bike I am using has been the star of the show so far. I bought the bike about seven years ago for €20 at a Spanish car boot sale thinking it would do for pottering around town. However since having been bitten by the cycling bug I have been using it to go further and further afield. So far this trip we have done almost 900kms without any mechanicals or incidents, though I did have to speak to a spoke the other day!

For the technically minded it is at least 20yrs old weighs about 12-15 kilos fully loaded, it has a steel frame, forks and mudguards, 26" wheels, 1.95 tyres (2") which make a terrific 'road noise'

when the bike is at top speed, almost like the sound a group of EG's passing by on the way to the first Morrison's stop.

The bike is a hybrid, 18spd with a triple chainring 48/38/28 and a 14-28 rear cassette so I have done well to get up some of the mountains one of which had a road sign saying 8%.

Keith's report from last Sunday where he mentioned Sarah's subliminal suggestion for doing the Langbar Loop brought a smile to my face, I too was once on a ride with Sarah and she finessed us into doing the Langbar Loop though as Keith rightly said it was well worth the effort for the views and the descent. It did get me thinking and wondering if a Wheel Easy wordsmith could add some words to the Langbar Loop, to the tune of 'Doing the Lambeth Walk'?

It could be quite catchy!

Below is a picture of me outside my regular coffee stop and a picture of the famous Costa Blanca carrot cake. Terry C



