

Sunday, May 24, 2015

Wheel Easy Ride Report 473

Short Ride

Nine riders in the short group this week, (not all short!). We headed to Low Bridge, Knaresborough, via the off road routes of the Showground and the tip! Along the riverside and hung a right to Little Ribston. Discussions took place re. ride route and all decided to press on to Wetherby for coffee and cake and butties. Very nice. Back to Harrogate via the Harland Way, to Spofforth, Follifoot and the Showground.

Along the way? A variety of smells on offer - wild garlic, and something not very nice, possibly being spread on the fields!! Church bells, wonderful countryside and good chat, as usual.

Pentacost Sunday, we were reliably informed, for those who weren't aware! Nice way to spend a morning, as usual. Sarah E

Medium Ride

Doth it not say in The Book of Wheel Easy (iv 16) that a medium excursion shall be no further than 35 miles? Verily it doth.

We sinners did clocketh up unto nigh on 44 miles. And me with me knee. And Dave with his new hip.

We went unto Ouseburn that is Great and e'en into the land of Myton-on-Swale, where Sir Ken Morrison takes his milk and honey (buy two get one free).

Boroughbridge gave (some of us) succour for the remaining 15 miles and, do you know what, people said they enjoyed all 44 miles. Very polite, WE folk. Paul B



The Medium ride split with Paul B taking the faster group and Dave P the slower group. At over forty miles, that distance would be pushing it for the odd rider, but with a slower steady pace most distances are achievable.

The only problem for a couple of EG`s would be 30 miles before a caffeine and calorie fix, in fact Dave P and Roy were having olfactory hallucinations (we kept smelling coffee and frying bacon). At Marton, Dennis said "Ah Bisto" and returned home to attack the Sunday Roast. Then on to Aldwark Bridge and Aldwark Village and its church. What style of architecture was this? We had no idea, not Early English, Gothic, or Romanesque, in fact as suggested Gingerbread House style seemed quite apt.

On to the bridge at Myton on Swale, where in the middle ages the Dastardly Scots (playing an away game) in fact they played more away games in England, than the English played in Scotland, and it was 1-0 to Scotland (guess the ref was biased).

On to Boroughbridge for coffee (at last), here Al, Dave P, Elizabeth, Jean, Linda and Roy made it to Gilpins cafe for caffeine and bacon sandwiches, Dave S`s neighbours (apologies for the names lapse here) headed for home.

At Farnham we were joined by Martin W, who had done the rough stuff ride from Boroughbridge to Myton Bridge via the overgrown bridleway. Then it was in to Knaresborough and Harrogate in the sunshine.

A nice ride of over forty miles in good weather. A big thank you to Roy for riding back marker, as any ride leader knows this is an enormous help. Dave P.





Medium-plus Ride

The weather seem favourable so a small group of four opted to follow the prescribed Hills of Jill to Beamsley Beacon and then veer off down to Cavendish Pavillion and Storiths Wood where the slightly later blue bells were glistening in the sun. Down and up, past Barden Tower to Burnsall for well earned hot food at the cafe, before meandering to Appletreewick, Stump Cross and Duck Street. Rob obviously needed a few more hills before he cycled back to Cookridge so we obliged with a tour towards Heyshaw Moor, Woodmans Wray Lane, the pack horse bridge over Pasdside Beck and the lovely St Saviour Church at Thornthwaite. A super day. Thanks to all. About 60 miles. Sarah C



A good start to a westerly ride - no wind at 9:30 in Hornbeam. By the time we reached Almscliff Crag, the wind was full in our face and continued with increasing force and lower temperatures as we cycled uphill and downdale to Otley via Leathley, then almost to Ilkley before turning right and uphill to Middleton and Langbar. Those who had cycled 'Jill's Hills'

before knew the leg-sapping to come , those who did this for the first time now know how tiring but rewarding this ride can be, with views far and wide, including the on-coming clear, blue sky. One big advantage of the westerly wind was that it blew us back to Ilkely in record time for great refreshments at the Station Cafe - they are welcoming here, arranging tables for us to sit together and serving cheerfully and efficiently. After short deliberation Terry decided to attempt a wind-assisted ascent of Cow and Calf - I hope you enjoyed it. One by one riders departed the group until Pool when finally seven out of the original twelve rode home via Castley and Kirby Overblow. Lovely, friendly, strenuous ride with a nice group . Thank You. 51 miles, Peter L

btw1 - The Kirby Overblow shop has re-opened for ice-creams and as a cafe on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

btw2 - The lovely views south across Wharfedale drew the question; what was the ugly concrete building in the centre of Ilkley ? Turned out to be the building which had housed the International Woll secretariat (including Lancashire) which is on the Ilkley Architecture Trail (www.ilkleyparttrail.org.uk). Peter L



Long Ride

Seven riders took part in the Long Ride to undertake the classic ride of visiting Masham, Lofthouse, Pateley Bridge and Yorke's Folly. The ride made steady progress to Ripon, despite the persistent headwind. Dan H decided to search out some food in Ripon, but it later transpired that Ripon has hosting a ceremonial march and most of the roads were close. Dan finally caught up with us at Masham. We now set off to Lofthouse where Mike B disappeared over the horizon never to be seen again. The rest of us struggled up Lofthouse and were relieved to arrive at the top. Following a quick descent Phil S and Peter J set off on the Gothwaite sprint to Pateley. Another refreshment stop was called for at Tea Cups, where Dan H took on board several 1000 calories. Yorke's Folly lived up to its reputation causing us all to grind our way up the hill. Now it was downhill all the way to Dacre and onward to Darley and Birstwith. The group now split up into smaller groups to return to Harrogate. Although a short ride at 60 miles we still achieved over 4,800 feet of climbing. See the attached link for more information.

<https://connect.garmin.com/modern/activity/783396725>

Peter J



Last Wednesday's Off Road Ride

Just three of us met in Reeth on a promising morning.

Not wanting to rush things, we had a cup of tea before tackling the climb of Fremington Edge to the tiny hamlet of Hurst, with its two chimneys dating back to the lead mining. Next was "Schoolmaster Pasture"....odd name for a farmhouse.....then West on the Moresdale "road", actually a shooting track which follows the ridge all the way to the Stang road, giving long distance views to Teesside. Spoil heaps from the mining gave us a sheltered spot in the sunshine for an early sandwich.

We finished the climb to the top of the Stang on the road, but soon branched off on a track. The forestry was clear-felled years ago, the weather-bleached stumps remain. We now enjoyed views of Cross Fell and the observatory on the top of Great Dun Fell from a track of almost motorway standard, put in to give access for re-planting, which had started lower down.....I miss the romance of the old mossy track under the trees, but I don't miss the mud! Further down, we got mixed up in the re-planting, looking like photos of the Somme....huge piles of earth and rock, bleached stumps of trees, but fortunately only deer and rabbit fencing, not barbed wire and land mines. We were soon next to a brand-new bridleway gate in the brand-new fence, sitting on the old stone gateposts, having another sandwich stop in a sheltered spot in the sun. We decided that rather than dropping down to Barningham just to climb back up again we would test GPS technology and see if we could navigate a bridlepath that I have tried before, and found nothing on the ground resembling a path. Despite the profound incompetence of the operative, the GPS triumphed, and we eventually picked up a faint quad bike track to a gate in a fence line, and from there a passable track out to the road. Easy on sheep-cropped grass, a different proposition through heather and bracken.

Then it was the road to Helwith, pausing for a Team photo on the moor top, and a favourite track from Helwith Bridge to Marske. Then on to Marrick, and the old Monks track through the wood to Marrick Priory. Quite startling to be among the spring flowers in the valley, after a day spent much higher up.

On the day, Swaledale was staggeringly, hauntingly beautiful. It changes my mood, and crashing downhill on loose stones the size of babies' heads you certainly know you are alive, but on balance I don't know if days like that are good for me or not....it makes me resent being surrounded by cars and houses for the rest of the time. Colin T

