

Sunday, June 7, 2015

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 475

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### Short Ride

No leader for today's ride so we made it up as we went along. Myself, Lynda Newbould and Graham set out for a very relaxed easy social ride. We took the route through the showground, tip to Forest Moor road and onto Knaresborough Abbey Road, Wetherby Road, and Chain lane. Park Lane, Bar Lane, Boroughbridge Road, Farnham, Lingerfield, Scotton. Cafe stop at the Riverside Knaresborough and home via Beryl Burton. Approx. 18 miles all at a very leisurely pace, lots of off road, quiet roads enabling the three of us to have a good chat. Jean



### Medium Ride

It was a lovely day for cycling with just enough wind to keep us cool. A group of nine set off on my simplified route to Fountains Abbey! The Greenway was remarkably quiet so we sped along to Ripley & then the plan was to go up Watergate Lane. However, I shot past & up the hill towards Bedlam. A discussion at the top led to the decision to head down Law lane & through Shaw Mills & Bishop Thornton & on to Fountains. An extra loop but everyone agreed worth it for a change & lovely views. We all enjoyed coffee & fab scones at the Abbey & then powered on through the deer park to Ripon, Bishop Monkton, Knaresborough & home. A really convivial group. Many Thanks to all for the good natured support of my error & particularly James for "sorting out" my map reading!! ( 35 milesish ) Nicky Holden.



### **Medium Plus - Medium Pace**

It was a near perfect summer's day with constant sunshine, blue skies and a not-too-irritating breeze. The fast boys disappeared and we were second off, just before Liz's allegedly gentler paced group. There were twelve of us, an eclectic mix of EGs, the young, the fit and the rest of us. (Just had to look up how to spell eclectic before "The Editor" gets hold of this!). I lead mainly from the front with Keith busy back marking at the rear.

It was just too nice and too easy and we made good time to Aldwark Bridge (see picture) and Easingwold. We decided to keep going to Coxwold for our café stop which, with hindsight, wasn't absolutely the best decision of the day. The garden was as delightful as ever but the café seemed to be under new management and I think they need to do a bit more market research on what constitutes a good pit stop! Life is too short to moan at length but, briefly, the café latte was made with instant powdery stuff and the two gentlemen who ordered fruit scones

found them a little on the small side, with one raisin between them. Service was slow. Conversation was lively though, ranging from the unmentionable to the need for a compulsory cull at the age of 70. This produced dark looks from a couple of EGs, one of whom missed the call because he was otherwise engaged at the top of the Col de Tourmalet!

Nothing could dampen our spirits on a day like today and we were soon on the road again for a couple of hundred yards before venturing in to the most interesting St Michael's Church containing all the history of the Belasyse, Fauconberg and Wombwell families and a unique example of a horseshoe Communion rail.

The second half of the ride was slightly into a benign breeze and morale was still high. It is an irrefutable fact that youth and fitness will always prevail so, by the time we got to Boroughbridge, Keith and I found ourselves leading from the back. No matter, everyone knows the way home but we still stuck more or less together back to Hornbeam, although three EG's did slide off left to the Morrison's Café as we exited Boroughbridge.

A great, convivial day out, with the prospect of weeks and weeks of the glorious summer still to come. Helen & Keith T

### **Medium Plus Addendum**

It was a brilliant cycling day, which was probably why there were so many riders wanting to do this excellent route.

At Aldwark Bridge it became apparent that such a large number of riders would have difficulty getting served at Coxwold Cafe.

So a group of seven riders headed for Home Farm Cafe at Benningborough, after which it was on to Easingwold via Huby, and afternoon tea in the Curious Table Cafe.

The return route was via Aldwark Bridge, but unfortunately we did not see any groups of riders from the Medium Plus Ride.

The amended route mileage was somewhere near the set route mileage.

Apologies to Keith, Helen and Liz if you thought we deserted you, but we think it was for the best in terms of comfort and safety of the whole group. Dave P.





### **Medium Plus - Slow Pace**

We were a group of 16, so a group of mainly EGs volunteered to go slightly behind my group. At the top of the hill past Farnham we had arranged to meet up in the driveway of a garden centre but it was here that the trouble started. One EG who shall remain nameless decided to investigate the gate and set off a very loud alarm. The noise was so bad we decided to set off but a few yards further on someone at the front decided to stop. A mass of braking commenced and as a result, Terry shunted in to the back of Justin causing Terry to leave his bike rather suddenly. There was blood but nurse Bridget was on hand and confirmed that there was no serious damage and large plasters were supplied by Justin. A little further on Justin discovered that his derailleur had buckled and had to return home. After Aldwark bridge DP and his band of EGs diverted to Beningborough while Gordon and Alison headed towards Myton, leaving a band of 6. We were diverted in Alne due to a Street Party though there were longing looks at some of the goodies on sale but we pressed on to Easingwold where we were well looked after in the

cafe. The cheese scones with cream cheese and chutney were very popular. The climb up to Oulston was hard but we were well rewarded with stunning scenery and superb views of the grey looking White Horse. Through Coxwold where we would have loved time to go round Shandy Hall garden, over the A19 and despite the wind we made record time into Boroughbridge. Here we indulged in cakes and hot drinks in the courtyard cafe with a great welcome from the proprietors. Back to Harrogate for about 4.30 with 57 miles under our belts. Liz P



### **Long Ride**

The long ride was a re-run of a ride we did last year on the same weekend. On that occasion I wrote a glowing eulogy about a wonderful ride, 2 welcoming cafes (the Curious table, Easingwold and Café Arabica in Thirsk), fantastic views and good weather. I'm pleased to say nothing's changed.

Stats at <http://app.strava.com/activities/320442748>



