

Sunday, June 28, 2015

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 478

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### Medium Ride

Yet another bad forecast, for rain all morning and temperatures around 16C. We met at Hornbeam with rain seemingly imminent, and set off in two groups, one aiming to keep to most of the published route, the other self-styled dissidents, who would go where the spirits took them. Jeanie had a puncture at Beckwithshaw, but the spare inner tube came out, and after that the ride turned into a pleasant, uneventful, day out for ten of us. In the end there was no rain, though admittedly only glimpses of the sun. Part of the route was new for me, after the Stainburn forest track, with a steep descent, turning right several times, taking us down past the right hand side of Lindley Wood reservoir to Farnley, then Otley for coffee. Tim suggested stopping at the Weirside Café, just before the bridge into the town centre, which was new to the rest of us. A find, with a similar feel to Ripon Spa Gardens. Then it was back to Leathley Bridge, and the familiar route home via Castley, Weeton and Kirkby Overblow. 28 miles according to some, 30 according to my Strava. Justin





### **Medium Plus**

The forecast said heavy rain, well that was the BBC, but Debbie said that the Met Office was reporting no rain at Ripon. So choose the best one seems to be a good philosophy, and off we went all 18 of us in waterproofs just in case, but by the time we reached Ripley they were being packed away. A morning coffee stop at Fountains Abbey with hardly any rain in the air was followed by a delightful climb up through the lanes to Laverton and Kirkby Malzeard. We avoided getting mixed up with a pretty massive cycling event taking place and we had lots of waves and smiles from some serious looking cyclists going in the opposite direction. After Kirkby we climbed up and up to the edge of the moors and that was the first, and only, bit of moderate rain we came across. I had been telling everyone what fantastic views they could enjoy from the top but the mist and mizzle left everything to the imagination. No sooner did we start to descend than the sun started breaking through and after a rapid drop down to Masham we sat in the square for lunch. Departure was a little delayed while Dave S looked for someone who

had locked their bike to his, and from then on it was a proper summer ride. We took the lanes to West Tanfield, Wath and Hutton Conyers. We were splitting up by now and some of those with speedy legs left were leaving those of us with a steadier pace in their wake. A final threat of insurrection from Yvonne unless we stopped for another tea took us to Spa Gardens. Delight of delights — tea and cakes in the sunshine and we were serenaded by the White Rose Band! As they took a break from a great performance (who needs Glastonbury?) they came across to the cafe. All dressed in black we recognised Max Graham and said he looked like a priest. He did offer to read the last rites to us but we thought we could make it back to Harrogate before we finally expired, and a four of us took the pretty way home via Studley Park and through the lanes to Ripley. Then it was homeward along the Greenway after 55 fabulous miles. Martin W.



### **Long Ride**

Three riders decided to undertake a ride into the unknown, given the extremely brief description of the ride route on the web site.

The Route:- Starbeck, Knaresborough, Staveley, Boroughbridge toilets, Thornton Bridge, Hutton Sessay, Carlton Husthwaite, Husthwaite, Easingwold, Huby, Sutton-on-the-Forest, Wigginton, Shipton by Beningborough, Overton, cycle path to York, tour of park and ride at Askam, Askam Bryan, Healaugh, Wighill, tour of the back lanes of Wetherby, Spofforth, Follifoot, and Harrogate Show Ground. What happened to Sheriff Hutton?

The Cafes: - Easingwold closed. Sutton-on-the-Forest, can you wait 10 minutes, no. Wigginton no sign of a cafe. The Sidings, near York, great pizzas. Wetherby Morrison's for afternoon tea. The Weather:- The rain stopped shortly after Knaresborough. Tailwind for the first part of the ride but headwinds every time we headed south. A spot of drizzle on the way to York followed by a heat wave.

The Ride:- Great ride in the Vale of York, managed 75 miles but back by 17:00 as promised.

PCJ



