

Sunday, July 5, 2015

Wheel Easy Ride Report 479

Shorter Medium Ride

The shorter medium group welcomed new rider Corinne, who was persuaded to join us, hi-jacking Malcolm's only taker for the short ride. 14 of us cycled to Kirkby Overblow and Sicklinghall, stopping to admire the view over the Wharfe Valley. At Collingham, Dennis left us for Sunday dinner, the rest of us climbed up 'Pig Hill', named by Sue T., although we didn't see many pigs! We took the A1 cycle path from Bramham to Wetherby, where four left us to go to work/ watch the Tour de France/ have a barbecue. For the rest of us, slight coffee stop confusion - North St Deli full, so off to the Gourmet, except for the two gentlemen, who went somewhere we're not allowed to mention! All OK, except that Lynda and Jean were minus their BLTs, which they were still waiting for as the rest of us left; hope they were worth it! Back along the Harland Way to Spofforth, Follifoot and Rudding, where we met up with some of the longer medium riders, who had obviously cycled much faster than us, or had a quicker coffee stop! Total of 30 miles, pleasant ride and good company. Thanks to Caroline for back marking and well done to Corinne for completing with ease. Sue O.





Medium Ride



Extra Ride Report –

A Day Out with Burnley and Pendle CTC. Harry Taylor invited us for a day cycling in the North Lancashire countryside with Burnley and Pendle CTC. Unlike Wheel Easy they get out of bed early and start their rides at 9.00am on a Sunday, and they also have many rides starting a little distance out, so in our parlance we would call them almost all "awaydays". I must say this gives them a good opportunity to explore more distant areas and, of course, more cafes. This Sunday's ride started from near Whalley and after introductions and renewals of old acquaintances thirteen of us cycled away past Whalley Abbey and headed north towards the Bowland Fells. The ride was planned to avoid the big climbs today so we skirted around Longridge Fell and Beacon Fell through the lush Ribble and Hodder valleys, and after some 20 steady miles Yvonne and I tentatively asked if they were going to stop at a cafe. We were wondering if we had got onto the Burnley and Pendle Slimmers World outing by mistake! But after nipping over the M6 at Garstang we enjoyed a great hot meal with almost more than we could eat — some things are worth waiting for. Garstang we discovered was the first Fair trade Town in the UK. Then it was homeward back along more miles of quiet lanes but the storm clouds were gathering as we stopped for a last cuppa at Ribchester. Only as we returned into Whalley did the waterproofs come out in anger. So this was their SHORT ride — only 48 miles! But in case that puts anyone off joining them for ride it was at a very steady pace. It was well worth the journey to meet up with a really welcoming, sociable, and chatty Lancashire crowd. Martin and Yvonne



Medium+ Ride

South of the Wharfe was today's ride and much jocularity about riding through urban Leeds. This did not deter a good band of riders willing to venture and have an adventure!

The ride up Weardley Bank which Terry saw as one of the few hills of the day, was passed in a flurry of conversation, the road quiet with road closed signs, but no sign of any closure and a nice amble along Eccup reservoir looking on very sympathetically at the Eccup 10 k runners. At Manor Lane Paul left us saying he was off to Portugal as we followed the muddy path to Wigton Lane, definitely not good for his bike.

At Roundhay we had our first café stop, much impressing Rob who normally rides with the EG's who end up at Morrisons. Then James led us on the Temple Newsom cycle route out of Roundhay, and at TN we met the faster group who had stopped there for their break. Rob showing local knowledge led us out through Colton and having had the faster group tag along with us, then resigned his role and Debby successfully guided us through Scholes, Barwick in Elmet, Aberford, and a pretty route via Boston Spa. In Wetherby we rocked up at North Street Deli but they were closed so we went to The Gourmet in The Shambles which was excellent. Back to Harrogate via Harland Way, Follifoot and the showground. Home before the rain, a great urban experience, lots of new sections for many of the group and welcome to Helen from London who joined us for the day.

Thanks Terry for being our leader and all those who helped him. 49 miles. Gia



Long Ride

Four riders took part in this classic Long Ride to Littondale. The riders were not disappointed the conditions were ideal for cycling in Wharfedale and Littondale. The scenery up Littondale was at its best with buttercup filled fields, vivid green fields and foliage, clear blue skies and masses of white clouds. We decided to have two refreshments stops one at Grassington, and the other at Strid Wood Tea Rooms. When we had completed the climb up Askwith Bank we could see the dark clouds gathering in the southwest and decided to make a speedy return to Harrogate. With a slight tail wind we made good time along Penny Pot Lane and arrived back home before the rain set in.

See the attached link for more information.

<https://connect.garmin.com/modern/activity/824318460>

Peter J





The Big One

Perfect start and end for this ride and the middle bits were pretty brilliant too ! Out of a group varying in size between 8 and 10 riders, I can guarantee that 8 completed 116 miles back to Harrogate, reaching all advertised locations and having a thoroughly nice time.

9 riders set off at 8am prompt from Hornbeam in bright sunshine and no wind. We picked up Dave at Lady Lane and proceeded in very calm conditions via Pot Bank, Penny Pot Lane, Menwith and Duck Street to Greenhow. For a change, the ride up Duck Street was pleasant and wind-free, but led to the loss of the first Dave to a puncture (his second of the day). He had only planned a trip to Grassington in order to return for the Fleetwood Mac concert (hope it was good, Dave). Known locally (and now Web-wide) as 'Disaster Dave'; he lived up to his billing. After breakfast in Cobblestone cafe, we cycled via Conistone to Kettlewell and Buckden, picking up an itinerant rider who was riding off his hangover from the previous day's wedding at Barden Tower. he assured us he wasn't the Groom and as with most cyclists he was a thoroughly nice chap - especially as he pronounced WE a 'brilliant club'. He left us at Kettlewell which was also pretty much the last we saw of Dave Rowson too - hopefully you made it around the 'course' and home OK.

The day's first big climb (Fleet Moss) was a first time for some riders but we all made it and most found the climb less daunting than the fearsome steep descent into Hawes. Avoiding mingling with Menston cycling club, who seemed to be everywhere, we went straight on to Buttertubs and again everyone ascended it without incident. We then had lunch in the Kearton Country Hotel in Thwaite in Swaledale. We all thought the service (and prices) were great and the views up to Kidson Hill added to the pleasure - although Michael was not sure the Fat Rascal was entirely necessary or wise given more hills to come.

For once, there was no debate about whether to go to Tan Hill - we all went even though the steep hills started literally at the hotel's front door. The route via Keld is quiet and hilly in parts without each hill being too long (I think). After viewing Tan Hill (from the outside) - another first for some - we set off for Reeth. The author promised one of the 'best descents in Yorkshire' and even he had to admit there was lot of ascent for a descent (600 feet I am reliably informed). Anyway. I enjoyed it and we all reached Reeth safely.

No decision necessary, we had tea in the Copper Kettle as usual, while the contents of several huge reservoirs emptied on Reeth accompanied by thunder and lightning. The hill outside became a torrent and by the time we left as the rain ended, the road to Grinton was a lake - even part of the footpath which we used was submerged. The world's steepest (and slippiest) cattle grid accounted for an injury to Sarah's finger - but it could have been a lot worse as several of us lost traction. We continued in drizzle over Grinton Moor to Leyburn and then we had a dry, speedy run home through Middleham, Masham, Ripon and The Greenway to Harrogate.

As I said at the start - all locations and climbs were accomplished, and everyone was still smiling at their achievements as we parted in Harrogate at 9:15. As promised we had ridden at a touring pace (average 11.5 mph), and I hope no-one felt they were either held back, forced to race or left behind.

The later than planned finish COULD have been blamed on the hills, on the rain delay or on any other factor - but we all know it was really due to Eric adjusting his saddle prior to each hill - maybe a slight exaggeration, but I promised I'd get this in somewhere :-)
thanks everyone, Peter L



