

Sunday, August 23, 2015

Wheel Easy Ride Report 486

Short Ride

As Paul R had lead the short ride today in a manner befitting a modern day Hannibal...with steep precipitous hills, elephants, an untrained disorganised group of followers, unfamiliar transport and a bit of battling with the elements, it was only fitting right that he should powerfully order someone to write the ride report. Eager to practice with my new communication system I am now tackling the third report, the others started and saved are now somewhere in a cloud. So....a glorious day and 14 people opt for the short hillyish ride via Knox, Hampsthwaite, Kettlesing, the Millstones cafe, Penny Pot Lane, and what was Ethelburgher's School.....instead of a 41 mile trip to Dishforth. So over excited were 6 riders that we turned right instead of left for home after our pleasant refreshment stop and headed for Little Almscliff and an increasingly strong head wind, despite hot bright sunshine. Paul dutifully led the remaining group back along the prescribed route. Thank you Paul for a lovely ride at a perfect pace.....and what beautifully organised weather.....18.5 miles of 22 miles. Caroline G





Medium Ride

James and I were slightly apprehensive as this was a new route for us both. However, it turned out to be very pleasant and we only needed 1 'peek' at the map. As there were 22 'takers', we split into two groups. Both groups picked up two more riders at Low Bridge. Unfortunately, punctures forced us to both lose two. However, just north of Boroughbridge, we were re-joined by a cheery Gordon and Allison. The ride towards Marton-le-Moor was lovely. We all met up in the Spa Gardens. [A kind lady volunteered to take a 'team' photo- however it didn't quite come out.] The two groups went home by different routes. James' group went through the Mount Garret estate while we elected to go via Markington. At the Drovers, 4 of our group decided to extend their ride and set off for Shaw Mills and Clint Bank. Thanks to Paul B for back marking for our group. A lovely ride for a warm day.

Alison N and James

Medium-Plus Ride

After a night of thunder, lightning and torrential rain it was nice to wake up to warm sunshine and a good crowd of eager cyclists keen to set off. We knew the wind was going to be a bit irritating but it was a strong south easterly so we consoled ourselves with the prospect of the final leg being downwind.

There were twelve in the faster group and we got as far as Collingham before a couple of damsels in distress flagged down Dave S so we waited a while for him to don his shining armour and sort out what appeared to be a puncture. It turned out to be a bit of a minor re-build of one of their bikes to enable them to return home. Their husbands really should not have let them out with their bikes in that state! (Only joking, H).

Back on route, with a strengthening wind, we made good progress through Bramham, Stutton, Ulleskelf, Ryther, Cawood, Kelfield and in to Riccall for hot roast of the day sandwiches, served with roast potatoes and, unusually, gravy. Can't beat a bit of carbo loading on a long ride. At this point we had also gained Liz and Richard who had overtaken us during the knight in shining armour incident and we had then overtaken them near Cawood. Also at this point, we turned downwind and were in the shelter of the Selby/York railway track so the route home was made significantly easier and we did spare a thought for our fellow WE chums making their way back from Park Rash in the opposite direction!

From Wighill, we all sort of made our own way back home via Wetherby, electing *not* to go along the railway track to Spofforth on account of all the standing water and debris on the roads. It was a good taxing day in interesting company and I must mention Sylvia and Trudy in despatches, who are in serious training for a charity bike ride in Tanzania in October. They look as if they will have no problem with the challenge! Thanks to you all – I really enjoyed the day. Helen T



Touring Day Ride

Six silver cyclists but only five silver surfers, set out on a newly washed day. We pottered uneventfully to Grassington (for refreshment) and then on to Kettlewell before that sharp right hand turn that means only 1 thing - Park Rash. A rather limp road sign optimistically promised Leyburn if only we could turn those pedals to the top. We did! And what a reward. A warm and buffeting wind enhanced the senses and the magic that is Coverdale was there for us to divine. Buzzards, wild flowers in abundance, waterfalls excited and bubbling with their additional flow, together with the odd lump of tree cast on to the road by Saturday's storm. Colin had advised the southerly route to West Scafton, Coverham (photo of 'Last of Summer Wine'), and this led us into the tranquil village green at East Witton. Refreshed by lunch at Jervaulx Tea Rooms, we made good progress to Rookwith, Thornton Watlass, Snape, Ripon and home.

Thanks to everyone on the ride who contributed to such a stunning tour.

Sarah C

Stats: irrelevant!







Long Ride

Five riders elected for the long ride which included one of the "classic" 2014 Tour De France climbs. The forecast was fine and hot but unusually with a strong Easterly wind.

Progress up Duck Street and then onto Grassington was swift, reaching the town in under 1 Hour 20 minutes. We took our first stop in Kettlewell which was awash with other cyclists. We climbed up from Buckden over Cote De Cray and then swooped down Bishopdale. The views were fine and the whole group enjoyed the excellent weather as well as the route!

We crossed Wensleydale and rode to Leyburn via Redmire and Wensley. Good progress was made into the strong headwind, the group sharing the workload. Masham was reached using some very quiet lanes via Thirn. A second well-earned stop was taken in Masham town square in the sun. Slightly slower progress was made on the way back to Harrogate with a tiring but satisfied group.

Home by soon after 5.0pm. A good route, weather and banter as usual.

Stats. 86 miles, 7200 feet climbing and 13.5 MPH average. Martin D

