

Sunday, August 30, 2015

Wheel Easy Ride Report 487

Short Ride

Ten riders today for the short ride and we were blessed with a beautiful sunny day.

We rode out to the Honey Farm at Braythorne via St Georges, Squinting Cat, Beckwithshaw, and Stainburn Forest.

Great cakes and scones at the Honey Farm, enjoyed by all.

At this point Caroline led 6 of the group on a longer homeward route to Weeton, Dunkeswick, Kirby Overblow, and Rudding back to Harrogate.

The remaining 4 had other things to do but were sorry not to carrying on. Caroline has promised to take the short ride on this route another time. I for one am looking forward to it immensely.

Thanks Caroline in advance and also for back marking with Monica today. Jean B



Medium Ride

Group 1

A fine, bright Bank Holiday Sunday dawned with pleasant temperatures and little wind. An ideal day for a hilly ride out in the direction of Fountains Abbey and Brimham Rocks. We split effortlessly in to two evenly sized groups and made our way to Ripley via the Greenway. Helen set off first, hotly pursued by Keith's group.

The main place of interest was How Hill Tower on the way to Aldfield and was a good opportunity for a nice picture of some 12th century ancient ruins. The nice tower in the background was originally a church that fell into ruin and was restored by the Aislabie Studley Royal Project.

A steep down, followed by an even steeper up, lead us to G&T's cafe at Risplith and although it was before 12.00 noon and the sun was definitely not over the yard arm, we stopped for second breakfast – and very good it was too.

Thereafter we had the joy of one of the finest ridge runs in the Wheel Easy calendar, on the way to Brimham rocks and eventually down Stripe Lane to Hartwith Toll Bridge. We did pass a frog on the way down that looked a bit flattened so we opted not to kiss it. We already had a surfeit of Handsome Princes in the group and another one would have just become a nuisance.

The route back from Birstwith and Clint, then finally through Hollybank Woods and the Greenway, is a delightful way to end a magnificent day. Home in time for third breakfast! Helen T

Group 2 – The Elastic Group

It was one of those days when counting the number in the group was an up and down affair. We started as 11 – Bill, Angela, Sally, Jill, Johnathon, Alan, Michael, Paul B, Max, Peter and myself – and ended up as 3. But the number varied at different parts of the ride. The route was very hilly and we lost Michael shortly after Ripley. Then, Max and Jill reckoned they could contour round Sawley without tackling the hill from Markington to Fountains Abbey and also avoid the steep “up” to the splendid café at Risplith. They were right! They kept joining up with the rest of us.

Turning towards Brimham Rocks, Max, Jill, Peter and Paul B headed off to Rabbit Hill Farm whilst the remainder of us enjoyed the run past an extremely busy Brimham Rocks entrance and then down to Hartwith Toll Bridge and on to Ripley via Birstwith.

Numbers continued to dwindle and the so-called leader eventually gave up any attempt to keep count of the group. However, we had a good laugh along the way and enjoyed a most scenic and energetic route. Keith T





Medium-Plus Ride

On a beautiful still sunny Sunday morning there were 26 queuing up for the medium plus ride. Dave took ten with him, leaving Martin and I to wander on behind. This worked well splitting in to two groups, meeting up at various places and in a very relaxed manner we agreed to trust to luck and go to the farm shop at Beningborough for our first stop. Here the canny amongst us used the take away chalet for our coffee and snacks and agreed to sit in the "take away" section of the garden.

After lunch having met cyclists who said they had come across Shipton Bridge we decided we would take this much safer route and then along the river path to York. This was a first for at least four of our group and great to welcome back Paul The Tiler and newer members, Mike, Andy, Eric and Colette.

The group included a wealth of cycling experience from Martin and Dave, our two ex-chairs, and our grand designer Colin, very proud no doubt to see his range of bikes on the ride.

The route along the river in York is a real delight and once through the racecourse we decided to make our second stop at The Old School in Rufforth. Here the owner as he saw us arrive brusquely told us that he was closing early. No apologies, no explanations, no "but do come back another day". Hence 16 cyclists left and are unlikely to return. A great shame. We therefore supported the local store in Tockwith where we had a range of sandwiches, tea and snacks and sat outside enjoying our break. 60 miles, (100k) for Andrew, his longest ride and for all of us a relaxing enjoyable ride. Many thanks to the whole group, Gia





Medium+ Ride Fast Section

We were billed by Gia as the "fast group" so we shot off from Hornbeam with determination. Apart from a slight technological hitch, (Dennis' computer fell off his bike), we raced down to York in fine form, scattering dogs and walkers in equal measure along the riverside path. Your Bike Shed, on Micklegate, was our intended lunch venue, and it turned out to be excellent, and thoroughly recommended to all for future occasions.

Again, we set off on our return leg as though our lives depended on getting back. The Marston Moor Memorial came and went, (I'm a student of Einstein's Theory of Relativity, didn't you know?), and before I knew it we were back at Hornbeam. "The fastest ride I've ever done" was heard to be muttered by one relieved group member. 58M recorded in about 4 hours riding time. Thanks to Janet, (our new member who showed us how to do it), Dave, (who peeled off to a previous commitment), Dan, (who didn't disappoint on the breakfast), to Terrys B and S, Alan, Alastair, Mike and Dennis. Another splendid day out. Let's do it again.
Dave S.



Long Ride

A ride of fluid numbers and mechanical incident. Seven set off but reduced to six before Rudding Park as Marvin's rear mech comprehensively failed resulting in a lift home. Before North Deighton Sussex Dave's chain came off causing another hiatus. John Hackett joined the group on the A1 bridge and seven continued to Church Fenton for a rather excessive lunch for some. Mike S didn't stop, but numbers were restored to seven as Marvin arrived on his other bike having hot-footed it by a direct route to catch up (top effort).

At Saxton John H bailed out for a quick route home reducing numbers back to six. Thereafter it was fairly smooth progress until Peter R dropped his chain on both Cote de Sicklinghall and Cote de Kirkby Overblow. The rest of us were thankful to make it home without any chain issues. 68 miles, exceptionally flat. Richard L



