

Sunday, October 4, 2015

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 492

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### Short Ride

Fourteen riders for the short ride including 3 new members. A nice gentle pace through Killinghall Moor to Ethelburgers and Penny Pot Lane. Crossing the A59 at the former Black Bull then a lovely downhill most of the way to Hampsthwaite, only to find Sophie's closed. Continuing on to Ripley where the majority stopped for coffee before returning along the Greenway. Thanks to Max for joint leading. Around 20 miles. Dennis B

### Medium Ride 1

Twenty riders opted for the 28 hilly miles to Otley. Paul R and Paul B offered to help Ian and myself lead in order for us to have smaller groups. The route took us through Kirkby Overblow, Weeton, Castley and up Farnley Park bank onto the B6451 into Otley. After coffee we returned via Leathley, Stainburn and North Rigton.

It was certainly a hilly ride which proved popular with the group as everyone seemed to be preparing for some challenge. Unfortunately I thought coffee at Cock Pit Farm would be a good idea but we were greeted by a large sign saying "Closed for Refurbishment until 5th November". The route was new for a few of the group and they appreciated the quiet roads and views. Malcolm showed us how easy it is to climb hills and Gia back marked to ensure we kept together. Thanks everyone for your enthusiasm and company. Paul T



### Medium Ride 2

Five members of Team Altura set off from Hornbeam via Kirkby Overblow where we were joined by Angela who quickly assumed the role of team leader, sprinting up hills, leaving others gasping behind.

After a very good coffee stop in Otley where we were joined by Team Tindle, we headed back via Stainburn to enjoy wonderful views along the ridge with enough energy to conquer Almscliffe Crag. A fine ride in great weather. Ian N



### **Medium-Plus Ride**

Contrary to the weather forecast, the day looked very promising at Hornbeam Park. After some decision making on dividing the group, three of the faster boys set off, a group of ten formed and Liz opted to take, so she said, a "slower group" of four. Our ride went to Ripon and onto Wath and Snape. As we approached Snape, we were surprised that the "slow group" by some devious means had managed to get in front of us. Everyone assembled for a photo in front of the village cross and then it was onwards to Masham. We were lucky to find seats at Johnny Baghdad's and enjoyed their usual fine fare. Swinton hill was not a welcome climb after that. However all made good progress until Jeanie had a puncture just before Grewelthorpe. Good teamwork made sure that was sorted quickly and we were on our way again. Eventually we reached Ripon and after that it was déjà vu all over again until Knaresborough Hill. A very good ride with very convivial company. About 60 miles. Monica and David



### **Long Ride**

All rides lead to Masham. Today was no exception. Masham via Lofthouse. No lunch (wheel-easy medium plus got there first and ate all the pies). Three riders PJ, DR and PS. The rest were all missing in Majorca. Phil S



### **Off-Road Ride**

Four of us met in Hawes, after a long drive on slow roads, we decided we deserved a brew before we set off; the next opportunity would be back in Hawes! Suitably refreshed we set off and were soon tackling the long push up Cotter End to the lime kiln at the top. From there it's a long run on an average downhill gradient on Lady Ann Clifford's road to the (modern) piece of "landscape art" called "Watercut Stone" which we completely failed to photograph! However, we did sit on the plinth having a sandwich and deciding on the route.....as Lady Ann's road was going to be more than 2 hours, then Wild Boar Fell would have to wait for another day! From the "Watercut" it's a fast descent on a good track down to the tarmac road, but the water-bars demand respect!

Through Outhgill to Pendragon Castle (closed for repair), then a scenic track following the River Eden to make a bit of a circuit back to the Castle, and Outhgill, where Peter showed us the "Jew Stone", a strange piece of local history!

Then back up Lady Ann's road, which has a totally different aspect from this end.....and we learned from our earlier mistake and had a sandwich break below the Watercut, which must be the windiest spot on the whole track. So back to the lime kiln, where we had a glimpse of hazy sunshine before the descent to Cotterdale, Hawes, and another brew, about 5 o'clock back to the cars. Colin T







