

Sunday, November 15, 2015

Wheel Easy Ride Report 498

Short Ride

Three riders set off into the wind and wet of this mid November morning. Obviously mad, but actually two were full of guilt because they had not done any exercise for at least 6 weeks and one optimist who wanted a cup of coffee. We headed to Knaresborough, where we noted a very forceful full River Nidd; Scotton, where Dave and Allison tried to swim on the road; Brearton; Nidd, where we lost Dave; Ripley, where Allison left us and I found Dave searching for us and his cup of coffee and finally Killinghall, where the River Nidd had really flowed over its banks and I popped in for a coffee with Wheel Easy members Jane and Kevin. Thank you for your jolly company Allison and Dave I hope you all reached your hoped for destinations. A few miles in a few hours. CG





Medium Ride

After days of heavy rain, and with more forecast, today's ride could – literally – have been a washout. The advertised route was flooded between Bishop Monkton and Boroughbridge (many thanks to Dave Siswick for the information). An alternative route to Kirkby Overblow and Wetherby was agreed. There had been no rain by the time we got to Wetherby, and it was still early, so ten of us elected to press on to Boroughbridge. Paul led us towards Cattal – and, as it turned out, to the edge of an impromptu lake in Cattal Moor Lane. While we were staring at the lake, wondering what to do, a large van decided it was impassable, and turned round. Not wanting to be responsible for the first Wheel Easy drowning, we turned back towards the A1, still intending to get to Boroughbridge, but as we did it finally started to rain. Another change of plan: go to Knaresborough via Little Ribston, now led by James. An excellent decision, and rarely has a café stop been more welcome. Now, I haven't handed out any awards for ages. For actually knowing where we were, when I didn't: Alison, Gia, James and Paul. For making light of her heavy bike in very poor riding conditions: Christine. Many thanks to everyone for contributing to decisions about route changes, for leading us at various points, and for making it a highly enjoyable ride on the unlikeliest of days. Around 31 miles. Justin





The Ride

Ride could have been entitled the sort of Short,Medium,Medium Plus ride.

Originally the Medium Ride to be led by Justin and Dave P.

The weather had been bad, and was forecast to be just as bad on Sunday and flood alert`s were also in place.

The Medium ride route was through Rocliffe, but local knowledge from Dave S informed us that this road was flooded.

So a compromise route was decided on ie Wetherby via Kirkby Overblow and Sicklinghall, the route being high, less likelihood of floods, piles of wet leaves on the road, and weather change could be seen from a distance.

The ride had now split into two groups led by Dave P and Justin.

Being EG influenced Dave P`s group stopped at Morrison`s Cafe in Wetherby (where else?), which consisted of Dave P, Dave S, Mark, Peter B, Terry B, and to add a bit of class to the group Jeanie, who really had to stay with us as she had already obtained her snack and drink when James informed us that the other group was going on to Boroughbridge.

After caffeine and calories plus a few laugh`s it was on to Walshford via the cycle track (no leaves) crossing a very high River Nidd, taking the very minor road (surprisingly in good condition) to Whixley, crossing the level crossing and on to Whixley to continue to Boroughbridge via Thorpe Underwood, Great Ouseburn and the Dunsforth`s.

In the past this road has been prone to deep flooding, but the excellent suggestion by Peter B of sending Terry B (the tallest) first, so if he vanished underwater we would then turn back, was not needed.

On entering Boroughbridge Dave S left us, but with good information about the condition of the cycle path up Knaresborough Hill (thick with wet leaves and hedge cuttings, ideal for wheel slippage and punctures).

For the remaining five it was in to Morrison`s Boroughbridge cafe, Mark and Jeanie getting in to the EG way of snacking.

Then back to Knaresborough via Farnham, but working on Dave S`s advice it was in via Watergate to Low Bridge then the climb up to the car park.

Again passing a Morrison`s with a cafe, but home was to near.

Car park to car park around 40miles a bit longer than the advertised ride.

It was a very enjoyable ride, the rider`s very glad they had made the effort to get out of bed on a wet day, did`nt Henry Vee say something about Englishmen abed holding their.....censored.
Dave P

After many mind changes I decided to go to Hornbeam. The forecasts were poor and although the wind and rain had eased it was obvious that a scenic ride would be impossible. Approaching

Hornbeam I saw one solitary Cappuccino rider waiting for others, and I wondered if it would be the same for me.

Not so , it wasn't a full house but I was very surprised at how many were . It just got better. Dave Preston, that master of the impromptu ride, led us on a glorious local ride. By now I had endorphins to spare, my sun was shining. The team were excellent. no mechanicals , no questions about getting back,or can we find somewhere less muddy and everyone saying how pleased they were to be out.

This was group riding at its best enhanced by DP's detailed discourse on early Anglo- Saxon democracy,Terry allowing me to fondle his bike and an EG attempt on the record for the most Morrisons visited.

My thanks to all concerned.

Peter Bradley







Long Ride

With the poor forecast I wondered if the long ride might be just me, but Phil arrived to make it a 2-man ride. Come on the rest of you it's only rain! Because of the weather, I changed the route completely to head for the Vale of York where I hoped it would be drier. We started with the Medium (or was it Medium+?) group en route to Wetherby, but left them at Overblow to do Kearby Cliff and then on to Bramham via Jewitts Lane. Although it was raining a bit, the wind was behind us so it was not bad at all. Then on to Aberford and Lotherton Hall for a tea stop, followed by Church Fenton, Ulleskelf, Tadcaster, and Rudgate towards Tockwith. Only as we turned towards Cowthorpe did the rain really start but, with that, the wind fell away! Good route planning I hear you all say! It was a bit damp to Follifoot but stopped completely there. The lights just before the Showground were on green (for the 3rd consecutive time for me) and, crossing the Showground, there were 10 red kites flying fairly low - a nice sight. So, 56 miles, great Autumn colours, a bit of rain, and a very nice ride! John

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