

Sunday, December 6, 2015

Wheel Easy Ride Report 501

Short Ride

It did not start well; the wind had only dropped to a mere gale force by 9 o'clock, not the predicted light breeze. I had tried to convince Gia that I was standing next to Terry Smith when in fact it was obviously Terry Barker...who I must admit I had not seen for months. And to cap the whole dreary mess of grey, just as the announcements were made, rain started tipping down in bucket loads....and this had not been mentioned on my weather forecast. The medium ride had totally the right idea and decided a ride to the shelter in Hornbeam car park would be enough for them. The short riders however were made of sterner stuff and set off to Beckwithshaw via Leadhall Lane, Rossett, and Lady Lane. By the time we reached Penny Pot Lane the rain had stopped and the sun was pretending to shine. However as there were mince pies to make and lunches to be eaten we decided to give Hampsthwaite (or Sophieville) a miss and go down West Lane back to Killinghall Bridge, where Denis described end of year picnics from school and jumping into the Nidd from the very spot we were standing on the bridge, and days taking his family to dingy down the Nidd back to the viaduct. In glorious cycling conditions we rode home along the Greenway, where we were not stopped by the police or given a shower hat and I for one was pondering on the silliness of deciding to do a real short ride rather than one a little longer. However, a roast lunch on a Sunday really is a thing of beauty and had not been sampled for months. Thank you back marker, front marker and middle marker...a very pleasant 2hours exercise. CG



Medium Plus Group 1 (not the Fast Boys)

We had all been woken in the night by the sound of Storm Desmond rampaging around, re-arranging the nation's wheelie bins. However Sunday morning dawned in a much more benign frame of mind with the prospect of sunshine as the day progressed.

After the Fast Boys had been despatched, sixteen remained and divided themselves into two (that makes eight, apparently!) and set off in a sudden flurry of rain, heading for Great Ouseburn via Ferrensby and Arkendale.

There was a fair amount of standing water but we were not thwarted until we tried to get through the Dunsforths and every car, road-runner and cyclist we came across advised us to turn back because of floods. We couldn't resist a peek and, they were right, you could not get through – unless you wanted to get your bottom wet. We retreated back to the main road and thought about turning again towards Lower Dunsforth but were met with the same advice so gave up and got our heads down back on the main road, only turning into Aldborough just before Boroughbridge. Plan A to cross the river and go to Lister's Farm Shop was also thwarted

by some nice young men in high viz jackets telling us that you could not get over the bridge – again, we could not resist a peek and, they were right! A further retreat led us into Gilchrist's Bakery where, conveniently, Terry's Fast Boys were just vacating their tables. After an excellent tea stop ("small" breakfast, including tea/coffee for £4.75, seemed like a good idea for three of the ladies), there was a lengthy, democratic discussion on the route home. Where's a proper Dictator when you need one? We settled on the Minskip, Staveley, Burton Leonard, Markington, Ripley, Greenway combination on the grounds that it was now sunny, the roads were dry and it was too nice a day to cut short and James was happy to slide to the front for a while. It was indeed a very nice route and we cracked the 40 mile barrier. Another good winter's day ride and many thanks to James for sharing the mantle of leadership and to Debbie for taking some pictures after I failed to understand the error messages coming up on my camera – some reading glasses would have helped. Helen T



Medium Plus Group 2 (not the Fast Boys either)

Our group was thrice thwarted by floods. Firstly approaching Upper Dunsforth, so we re-routed to Lower Dunsforth, only to have to return again to the main Boroughbridge Road. The scene of the flood around the Bridge in Boroughbridge was quite spectacular (see photograph). Deprived of the ability to lunch at Lister's Farm Shop, it seemed prudent to yield to the group's "universal" preference to lunch at Morrison's Boroughbridge Parlour before beating a retreat back to Harrogate.

Around 30 miles in the company of Justin, Jeremy, Michael, Gia, Martin, Paul and Kevin who joined us for the last lap from Boroughbridge. Keith T





Medium Plus (Fast Boys)

During a brief downpour as we left Hornbeam Park to remind us that Storm Desmond is not quite over, Terry Barker led off half the medium plus group, consisting of Mark, Tony, Paul, Michael, David and David W. As we approached Dunsforth two cyclists coming the other way stopped to tell us of the flooded road ahead, forcing a change of route into Boroughbridge and then our café stop. The group stopped to admire the flooded Rive Ure and watched as two cyclists waded up to their waists across the flooded road carrying their bikes cyclocross style. The prospect of wet feet sent our intrepid group on the direct route home with a ride distance of 33 miles completed. Thanks to all for a good ride! M Inglis



Long Ride

Yet another amazingly large turnout, ten in number, for today's Long Ride. The planned route immediately unravelled as Broughbridge was impassable and so was the alternative route via the Dunsforths. "Water water everywhere, Nor any suitable roads open". Eventually we made our way to Aldwark Bridge and then onto Easingwold. At Easingwold the Leader and four other riders decided to a cafe stop while the other five headed off to Ampleforth. Suitably refreshed we left Easingwold and had a trouble free ride to Ampleforth via Yearsley and Gilling. The return route was and of course Aldwark Bridge again. Working as a team, and taking it in turns at the

front, we made good progress into the headwinds on the return. Surprisingly we meet up with the other half of the group at Ferensby. With all the diversions we covered 75 miles but still managed to get home while it was still reasonably light. Peter J



