

Sunday, July 24, 2016

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 533

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### Short Ride

A warm Wheel Easy welcome to four new riders - Carl, Toni, Oliver and Jane. It was great to see you. As planned we set off for Stainburn Forest - two groups of five riders. The pace was steady and as we approached the far end of Pennypot Lane I gave everyone the option to return to Harrogate, as our full ride was to be 25 miles.

Everyone decided to continue and not take the short cut offered and so we rode on to cross the A59 All across and on we rode eventually turning right to Hampsthwaite. Cycling was now flattish or downhill all the way to our coffee stop at Sophies

Teas, coffees and oh so fresh and tasty scones eaten we were ready for off. Up to Killinghall and back along the greenway.

Thanks to all - 25 miles Lynda N



### Medium Ride

20 medium riders today, when we had picked up a few at Knaresborough, with Gordon leading. The route was via Farnham, Copgrove and Roecliffe into Boroughbridge where Alison and James had to leave us for an early return home. We then headed north, enjoying wonderful scenery, warm weather and quiet roads - until we came across Boroughbridge and Aldborough Show traffic joining us for a short while.

Over the A1(M), posing for a photo in the pretty village of Marton-le-Moor, heading north along a lovely lane then turning left past Sharow and through the underpass into Ripon, the journey slightly spoilt by one very bad tempered driver! At Ripon Market Square John, Sue, Alison, Neil and Gordon headed homewards. John had kindly researched a number of suitable cafes in Ripon for us but when asked the unanimous vote was to Spa Gardens for our refreshments. There were a very few rain drops so half of us sat outside and the rest in. The return route was Littlethorpe, Burton Leonard and the Mountgarret estate back to Ripley and home. The rain came down for a while around Bishop Monkton but those who didn't stop to put on waterproofs soon dried out.

About 40 miles. Thanks very much to Gordon for leading. EAP.



### **Gia's Unscheduled Ride**

As Malcolm and I are on standby for a trip to London for a new arrival we decided to ride a circuit nearer to home and we were pleased that seven others joined us for a 29 mile hilly ride to Cock Pit Farm via Timble. Unfortunately we had an unscheduled stop at the car park as Malcolm had a puncture on the bike which despite lots of TLC could not be solved. Meanwhile the rest of the group discovered while waiting how to increase the size of the text on our phones so that we can read them. An age thing! Very luckily we met a friend in the car park out walking her dog and she kindly offered to take Malcolm and Bike home.

The rest of us rode up past Timble and over the moor to Askwith where we met up with the medium plus ride group at Cock Pit Farm. After an excellent cafe break and having offered three options for a route back I think it was fairly democratic that we chose Otley, Farnley, Lindley reservoir and back along Brackenthwaite Lane. We lost Jeremy flying down to Beckwithshaw and hope that is what he meant to do.

Lovely ride, very hilly, a little rain, not enough to fill our rain butts and sorry Malcolm did not make it, nice to have Jill with us and we all wish her good luck for her Prudential 100 next weekend. Gia



## Medium Plus Ride

Seven lady riders accompanied Peter, Keith and Andrew for this ride, and were joined by another at Eccup. I don't intend to sound patronising in any way - but well done WE for being such an inclusive and welcoming club !!

Since the rendezvous at Eccup was for 11:00 we detoured along the ridge from Kirkby Overblow and descended through Nearby/Kearby prior to joining the Leeds Road to Harewood Bridge and the much-anticipated Weardley Bank. We arrived at the New Inn at 11:01 - not bad given the gradients involved. More variety to the advertised route followed as we descended to Eccup Reservoir and then used the pavement for 400 yards to Alwoodley Lane. I had intended this route anyway as Leeds Road is so busy for such a short hop, but now found that it was LEGAL to ride on this path as it seems to have been designated as a Bridleway. Gawping at the trashy houses on Alwoodley Lane (some of them are anyway) , I wondered whether our forebears thought the same when the Duchy houses were being built.

At the end of Alwoodley Lane we dog-legged on to Stair Foot Lane which has a long descent but a short uphill. Then left out of Church Lane and we rejoined the advertised route to King Lane and Bramhope - noting the pretty wild flower borders and formal planting for Bramhope In Bloom.

The Cafe stop was the Cheerful Chilli <http://thecheerfulchilli.co.uk/> where we enjoyed HUGE portions of cake and pie while it rained outside. Happily it stopped allowing a descent to Otley and Pool and then via Leathley and Brackenthwaite Lane back home. Sarah wanted more miles and so had headed off in Cockpit direction, Joanne from Huby left us at Stainburn.

Nice ride with some variation loops to humour the Leader - my Strava reckoned 40 miles and 2,400 feet of climbing. Well done all Peter L





### **Medium Plus Faster Ride**

I led 10 riders in the faster Medium Plus group at a reasonably speedy pace as far as Otley, where Declan needed to call in to Chevin Cycles to get one of his shoe cleats replaced. Despite us all agreeing that Andy and Declan would head off to Chevin while the rest of us would head on the Cock Pitt Farm, we all on autopilot followed Declan to Chevin Cycles (analogies with a flock a sheep were made!) and then loitered outside. After a quick cleat change we all headed off the planned route to a cafe stop at Cock Pitt farm. The group decided to head back to Harrogate via Askwith and Timble, rather than the planned route via Leathley. The predicted rain started as we passed the reservoirs and then during the fast run along Pennypot Lane we split into two groups. One lot headed off home while five of us headed for a 'debrief' (you can see the intense discussion and consumption of recovery drinks in the photograph). Thanks to all for a good ride, even if this is one that is a little on the short side. Michael I.



### **Long Ride (Short Version) Report**

When the Long Ride arrived at Middleham four riders decided to abandon the original ride and take a shorter route back to Harrogate. The four, PCJ, Phil, David and Richard, headed towards the Gallops and then down to Coverham and over Coverham Bridge and along the lane to East Witton. After a brief discussion it was agreed to cycle up the hill from Jervaulx to Ellingstring, a novel concept. Having struggled up the hill we decided to take yet another hilly route to Healey on the Masham-Lofthouse road. At the T junction PCJ inadvertently

turned the wrong way, as his original intention was to go to Ilton, but now ended up going to Lofthouse. The climb up Lofthouse was not helped by the strong headwind. Whilst David and I were waiting in Lofthouse village a motorist shouted "The cyclists have stopped for ice-cream", so it was about-turn and struggle back up the hill to join the other two for ice-creams. It was now a case of a gentle ride down to Pateley and a quick stop at Tea Cups for tea and cake. As we had already done enough climbing for one day a steady ride down the main road was called for. Although we cycled in some drizzly conditions it never rained enough to don waterproofs and for the majority of the ride the conditions were dry. Even though this was the Shorter Version of the Long Ride we still managed 75 miles and goodness knows how many feet of climbing. Peter J



### **Long Ride**

Nine riders set off from Hornbeam, with a tenth collected at Ripley, for a foray to Wensleydale, Coverdale and Wharfedale. Two departed at Masham for an early cafe stop and return home. The remainder pressed on to Middleham for lunch, somewhat slowed by miles of resurfaced roads strewn with copious amounts of grit (none

of which was there on a recce 10 days ago).

After therapy of a good lunch at the Priory cafe, four decided on a shorter route back via East Witton, Ellingstring and Lofthouse, while the remaining four headed for West Witton and the little known climb of Witton Steeps over into Coverdale. This offers great views of Wensleydale and out to the North York Moors, but it was a bit too murky on this occasion.

Next was the run up Coverdale to the top of Park Rash into a stiffening westerly wind, then a downhill blast to Cobblestones cafe at Grassington.

Persistent rain forced the donning of 'boil in the bag' rain jackets for the last 25 miles, but at least the wind was helpful. The final 'deserter' was the ride leader's legs, which went on strike at Menwith Hill, requiring careful nursing home by the surviving domestiques.

85 miles, 6000 feet of climbing. RL.



