

Sunday, August 7, 2016

Wheel Easy Ride Report 535

Short Ride

A very depleted group of 3 set off to ride a circular route of 20 miles via Knaresborough towards Burton Leonard but as new member Jane had a road bike we didn't think the track from Copgrove towards Roecliffe would be suitable so we decided to amend the route to go through the Mountgarret estate and then on to Ripley where Dennis left us to go home for lunch whilst Jane and I had a coffee stop in Ripley and returned via the Greenway thus avoiding the strong wind which was starting to build up. Whilst going through the estate we were lucky enough to come across a horse and carriage time trial which was both entertaining and interesting.

I feel that the reason for the small number of 3 on this short ride was as a result of the medium ride at slower pace attracting a lot of otherwise short riders and had Jane not needed to get back for lunch with family we may also have done the medium ride.

On the way back we came across a rally for vintage trucks and buses on the Stray which we felt we needed to inspect.

23 miles completed and an enjoyable ride in good conditions! David S





Medium Ride

Only 5 takers for the 'standard' medium ride today; many more chose to go with Lynda Newhouse on a slower version of the same ride. The route on the website (No. 100) is very, very hilly, and there was a strong, blustery wind from the west to contend with. There was no real 'leader', but Malcolm, (on his electric Brompton to contend with the hills...) had brought a print-out of the route, so Neil, Steve, Geraldine and I set off on the approved route with slight trepidation about the hills to come. Bit of a headwind up to Stainburn Woods as expected, slight navigation error on the way to Swinsty, but otherwise very much as planned. "Road closed" sign at Fewston, so we followed the diversion. Steve broke a spoke at this point, and we must have missed the second diversion sign, as we found ourselves in Cobby Syke, somewhat to the east of Timble and where we should have been. It started to spit with rain, so we dived into the Fewston Farm shop/café, waiting for the rain to pass, but I don't think it ever really started. Discussions on what to do now. We decided to be radical, and do a completely different route... A59 briefly and then right up Meagill Road and along the gated road with all the security stuff for Menwith Hill. As we reached the end of the gated road, we came across a cycle road race. We decided not to join in, as we were not sure if Malcolm's electric Brompton would be prohibited, so, instead, we crossed over and went down into Darley and down towards Birstwith with a strong following wind. By this time, the sun was shining. Rather than go to Hampsthwaite (we'd already had our café stop), we crossed the river and went up the closed Clint Bank, right down Clint Bank Road and then through Hollybank Wood to Ripley. We waited very patiently for a very grumpy old woman with a pushchair to amble slowly along the middle of the path, and then we made good progress back towards Harrogate. Malcolm stopped briefly to do his Good Samaritan bit with an old-ish bloke who was apparently just learning to ride a bike, and Geraldine ran over a rat, which definitely came off worse from the encounter. Steve and Neil headed back to Hornbeam, whilst we headed home.

About 26 miles (but not really the route intended...) Joe S



Medium Ride (Steady)

Four of us set off in the direction of Stainburn forest. Once on the outskirts of Harrogate we began to feel the full force of the wind. Left turn in the direction of Fewston. At this point I'm reaching for my OS map just to check out the route. It's the first time I've led the way to Fewston and so I wanted to be sure we went the right way. The narrow road up to Timble is quite a pull but worth the effort.

Up to Timble, only to come back down to the reservoir over the bridge and then a climb up to the A59. Like magic the wind disappeared as we crossed this main road.

A lovely ride now stretching ahead as most of the hills were now behind us. We rode in the direction of Menwith. Past the base and down to Hampsthesite :)

We were hungry and tucked in to our coffees and cakes.

Refreshed and back in the saddle we set off on the final leg. A change of route, instead of the Greenway we chose to return via Knox.

Ride length - 29 mile.

Thanks and a well done to Jean Jenny and Kevin. Lynda N.



Medium Plus

More than 20 riders set off from Hornbeam on a windy and dry day to cover the 55mile route. We set off along the Greenway and met up again at Ripley to decide on the breakdown into groups. Gia and David Preston as usual generously offered to lead separate groups, and we were soon on our way to Fountains Abbey visitor centre for coffee. Paul Randall, having recently moved out to rural Grewelthorpe, was there to meet us and join the ride. After Fountains we followed minor and delightful lanes through Aldfield, Low Grantley, Laverton, Kirkby Malzeard and through to Grewelthorpe. Despite the blustery conditions everyone volunteered for the climb up to the moors and the rather misty views before dropping down to Swinton and Masham. After refuelling at the cafes in the square we were soon heading off towards West Tanfield, Wath, Hutton Conyers and Ripon. Most headed homeward from here but a militant group of five of us demanded sustenance at Spa Gardens. The band was playing and Peter B relaxing with his tea told us that he was born to this and that in his aristocratic youth bands played for him on his lawn, but he was happy for the riff-raff to join him in appreciating the band on such a good day. We also learned that it was Nicky and Graham's longest ride - they did really well. It seemed to be a day for lessons because earlier David P found that the creaking he had been hearing was a loose back axle - did he really need those new hips or would tightening his Quick Release have been the solution? Then it was homeward via Bishop Monkton, Markington, Bishop Thornton Crossroads and the Greenway. A great scenic ride in good company. Martin W.

Extra note from Gia: At Ripon part of Martin's group declined the offer of a third cafe stop and headed home. Keith led a group to Littlethorpe one way and Kevin and Gia another. We met in Littlethorpe and mingled with the Open Gardens flock. At Bishop Monkton one group took the Tarkington turn and the rest the Mountgarret estate again we all met up in Ripley. A great day's ride and thank you to Martin for shepherding such a large group, which worked out very well for us all.





Medium Plus Ride (Fast)

Billed as Kirby Malzeard and around the moors it certainly was there were roads out there that I didn't know existed. So it was the Intrepid Six set of out of Harrogate for the Hills via the Greenway on this windy day into and quickly out of a rather busy Ripley...another car-boot sale?...anyone!! From there we hit the first hill up to the Drovers Crossroads and on down to Watergate Lane and the back way up to the UNESCO site that is Fountains Abbey (founded by rebel monks in 1132 AD who were kicked out of St Mary's in York. For the more modern amongst us it was used by Hollywood filmmakers in The Omen 3 film and also by the pop band Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark for a video of their single Maid of Orleans).

Onwards westbound through Aldfield to Grantley and Laverton where we became the Famous Five after we lost one of the Mark's to a Sheffield Wednesday match so we headed out and climbed to edge past the moors along quiet back roads offering great views of the vale of York through the Hamlet of Warthermarske for the reward of a nippy brilliant couple of miles downhill past Swinton Hall and the golfer's and into the brewery rich Masham for snacks and caffeine at Captain Bagdad's or whatever it's called a little bit pricey but the staff were friendly. Now re-fuelled we all set of for West Tanfield and Ripon through windswept countryside upon reaching Bishop Monkton we split as a group again as I went for Farnham and home to Scotton whilst the others we back via Markington and Ripley back to Harrogate.

Thanks to two Mark's, Alan, Bianchi Bob, Me and Darcy for a really enjoyable ride and again we didn't bring a camera...bugger! Tony P

Long Ride

Potted Long Ride Summary:

8 riders to Masham, 7 from there onwards.

63 miles, fairly windy but manageable.

Great wind-assisted descents to Kirby Malzeard, Bedale and Ripon.

Extremely quiet roads.

Comments about "should have brought a sick note" as we turned for Ringbeck.

Other hearts fell at the same turn.

Golden fields of corn.

Three spits of rain from somewhere.

The brass band welcomed us at Spa Gardens.

And great-looking scones with jam, cream and strawberries.

A surprisingly nice ride given the weather forecast! John H

