

Sunday, August 21, 2016

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 537

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### Short Ride

Dennis led a superb ride of 19 miles which meandered through various cycle paths to Abbey Road, Knaresborough where we observed the tranquillity of the old gravel pit lake before reaching Halfpenny Lane and then on to Ripley via Scotton and Nidd. Coffee takers, Sue A and Jane of Poddler Fame, partook in Ripley whilst the remaining four of us traversed the Greenway and home.

The sun shone for the entire time but we concluded that the amount of avine cadaver observed on the roads could have accounted for no sightings of live ones except for a host of swans on the lake – collective noun welcome! It was a pleasure to have Christine from Medium Plus together with her brother, Andrew, from Surrey. Whilst refusing to borrow his brother in law's lycra, Andrew did a fair old pace clad in shirt and trousers reminding us of the non-lycra line which appeared on the website!

Thank you Dennis. Sue D



### Medium Ride

Our route was via Knox to Hampsthwaite, by which time we were a group of 12 having collected 3 en route. However Joe had a puncture at Hampsthwaite so rather than keep us waiting he and Geraldine opted out. The route via Swincliffe, Tang and Staupes was very undulating and slow as no-one knew the way and maps and Garmins had to be consulted at every junction! We eventually reached familiar territory and swapped down towards Darley Mill, enjoying the fantastic scenery. Allison was unwell so she and Gordon turned off here. A gesticulating driver who tried to push Dave off the road here was our next obstacle before we followed the road through Dacre into Summerbridge and then headed to Birchfield Farm. Here we partook of hot drinks, teacake, Paninis, cakes and ice cream but no scones. The few drops of rain occurred on an otherwise dry though windy ride as we went down the track to Birchfield which made perfect timing! Our route was then Hartwith Toll Road, Birstwith, Hollybank Lane, where we stopped to chat to a couple with 2 dogs who did gate duty for us. They were on holiday here, trying out all the local tea rooms in between walks and needless to say most of us had been in them! Ripley, where we stopped to chat to Liz and Pete F, and home via the Greenway. Probably about 28 miles and 2000 feet of climbing. Liz Pugh



### **Medium Ride Slower Pace**

A nice sunny day for the ride today. 8 of us set off for Spa Gardens via Knaresborough and Farnham where Sir John left us for jobs to do at home.

The remaining 7 rode on to Copgrove, Bishop Monkton and Littlethorpe. We had a slight detour from the bypass to visit the canal side where our barge trip will be departing from on 3rd September. Onwards to Spa Gardens for refreshments sitting in the sun, although we didn't enjoy the company of several persistent wasps!

Jo left us at Ripon to hurry home and we reversed our route back to Burton Leonard losing Bridget and Sue R on the way. Thankfully we were reunited just outside Burton Leonard. From Burton Leonard we rode through the Mountgarret Estate, passing Stanley House, on to Nidd, Ripley and the Greenway. Bridget and Sue R left us in Ripley in search of more tea and cake. The remaining four, myself, Sue T, Sue O and Lynda N parted at Bilton Lane. A ride of about 35 miles at a nice pace of approx. 9.7 mph. Jean



### **Medium Plus Ride (Group 1)**

Today's ride looked as if it might not be much fun. We set off towards Stump Cross, via Beckwithshaw, spending a lot of time heading into a strong, blustery wind. It started to rain on Duck Street, which didn't improve matters. Then lunch at Stump Cross - fine, but busy, and we took an hour. So long, indeed, that Michael and co. arrived there just as we left, having gone the other way round - Otley, Ilkley, Bolton Abbey, Skyreholme. And then things looked up. The skies cleared. We headed down into Wharfedale and out of the wind. And then we had a Champagne Moment at the Cavendish Pavilion. A very nice young cyclist - I'd have been delighted if one of my daughters had brought him home - asked me if I had a spoke key. He had a broken spoke on his rear wheel. I did, but I also had something much better - I had Colin! Minutes later, the neighbouring spokes had been adjusted, under Colin's guidance, and he was on his way back to Ilkley. We stopped again at Cockpit Farm, where we met Sue's group again, and lost Peter, Helen and Keith, leaving five of us - Colin, Fiona, Monica, Sarah and me. Then it was home via Lindley, Briscoe Ridge, where we stopped to take in some fantastic views, and Burn Bridge. So, a great ride in the end, thanks to everyone for the company. Justin



### **Medium Plus Ride (Group 2)**

A very popular ride requiring several groups. A windy and strength sapping ride up to Little Almscliffe shoed the importance of keeping together in small groups. Onwards to Duck Street with wind coming sideways on this time, draughting working well. Rain commenced and we were all grateful for relief to be found in the dry at Stump Cross café. Three groups arriving in close proximity put the café staff under severe pressure causing rather slow service but all in good spirit.

The weather picked up and dried up for the stunning descent to Bolton Abbey with superb views of the hills vibrant with purple heather. The Wharfe gleaming in the distance and the Strid in full flood were uplifting sights as we left for Ilkley. Fortunately the road to Ilkley was closed to cars so we had a quiet ride barring several other cyclists. Most of the group craved afternoon tea at Cock Pit Farm before returning home via Castley. A pleasant but tiring 56 mile ride fatigue due to the strong winds and some climbing, thanks to all for pleasant ride and good company. Sue C



### **Medium Plus Ride Faster Group**

A faster medium plus group formed in the Hornbeam Park car park and contemplated the route as we didn't have an official leader today. Bob suggested we reverse the planned route to avoid headwinds along Greenhow Hill. We kept up a decent pace to a cafe stop at Abbey Tearooms near Bolton Abbey. Bob and Ian then decided to head home the way we had come out, leading to much wry comment within the remaining group now

contemplating heading up over Greenhow! A tailwind-assisted climb up to Stumps Cross was appreciated, as we passed the other medium plus riders coming the other way out of the Stumps Cross cafe after a prolonged cafe stop. We pushed hard back home via Hampsthwaite rather than via Little Almscliffe. A good ride was enjoyed by all, along with the novelty of doing it the 'wrong' way round, on one of the best medium plus routes in the Wheel Easy calendar. I measured 56 miles covered at an average of over 15mph. Michael I

### **Long Ride**

Five riders met for the Long Ride on what looked like being quite a blustery day. At the start a decision was made to head to Bolton Abbey and then decide if we would be able to battle into the strong westerly wind all the way to Malham.

Working as a group progress was quite good to the tea rooms with some excellent clear views. The road from Ilkley to Bolton Abbey really was a cycle only zone still being officially closed to traffic.

Scones and hot drinks were consumed and three options emerged. The followed consideration to the strength of the wind, the ominous black clouds and allegedly the strength of some rider's legs!

The vote (almost unanimous) went for a return route to Ilkley, a wind assisted ride up to the Cow and Calf and then back to Harrogate via the Chevin and Kirby Overblow. This was completed in good spirits, wind assisted, the only downside being the noticeable greater volume of traffic as you get nearer to Leeds.

The riders completed some testing climbs and all agreed to have another go at Malham as a destination in two weeks' time. Martin D



