

Sunday, August 28, 2016

Wheel Easy Ride Report 538

Short Ride

Well I thought it was excellent to be back at Hornbeam with temperatures less than 20 degrees centigrade. Lots of people ...actually eight had decided to be short and sedate. Seven ladies....one returning and one new and new Andy escorting us on a lovely new recumbent bike. My main aim of the day was to get to Killinghall and feed Jane s stray cat. So up to Little Almscliff where Sue T had to leave us to drive the 2.40 Intercity to London. Onwards to Penny Pot Lane...where I noticed rumblings for a coffee stop.....and luckily noticed the shop before Rowden Lane was open for business and provided a nice line in delicious breakfast sandwiches, lemon drizzle and coffee. A quick pedal to Killinghall allowed cat feeding opportunities. Monica left us to zoom up Knox Lane and home to produce a Great British Off offering and the remaining six enjoyed an empty Greenway back to Harrogate. Thanks for the front and back markings and apologies for 25 miles at 9.1mph but I know you all wanted to do it and could have turned back earlier. 9671 pace.... 35 floors in the alternative world of fitbits. CG



Medium Ride – Slow Pace

Only 2 for this ride today myself and Lynda Newhouse. Everyone seemed to have commitments and needed the shorter ride. Fountains was our destination, via the Greenway, Ripley, Drovers Crossroads, Water gate Lane. The return was via the deer park at Studley, Sanctuary Way (bit muddy but off the road and did cut out the busy Pateley Road), Bishop Monkton, A61, Markington, back to the Drovers, Ripley and the Greenway home. Total mileage about 34 miles at a nice pace.

We were really lucky at our cafe stop at Fountains. A helpful lady gave us vouchers for a free tea or coffee. Much appreciated. Jean



Medium Ride

Nine riders opted for this ride from Hornbeam this morning and we were joined by a further two late risers at Bilton Lane junction on the Greenway. Also we were joined by a new member, Ji (excuse spelling if incorrect), and "new" to the sport of cycling a natural progression from his gym spinning sessions he says. Judging by his pace I'm all for retro-evolving to the gym to spin. Onwards to Ripley and the Drover's cross roads where a small estate of non-affordable houses is now in the process of construction having been blessed by the party of St. Theresa of the May or Maynots . On the climb out of Ripley I was again humiliated by a resurgent El Butler thundering past me to claim as many King of the Mountain points as possible.

On the back road to Fountains Abbey we came across a new Government money saving initiative for the police of a trial of a replacement for "stingers" (a device deployed to stop unstoppable cars) ...deceased hedgehogs. At Fountains VC two riders left for early baths whilst the rest of us rushed in clutching our vouchers, donated by a very nice warden, for free tea if we purchased tiffin a no brainer.

On the return route there was a ground roots revolt from the Corbynists, who, it has to said, had all miraculously found a free saddle on each of their bikes, to return by the "much more pleasant" and muddy Montgarret Estate to Ripley and home. After discussions on who had the right to vote the motion was agreed. Thanks to Paul for back marking and volunteering to clean all the bikes. Fortunately the rain stayed away. A pleasant 32 miles with lots of chat and banter. Thanks for your company. Max



Medium Plus Ride

Eleven of us took the very familiar route to York via Aldwark bridge and Beningborough. At Great Ouseburn we had a discussion about the cafe stop and it was unanimous that we went in to York and to Cycle Heaven.

As we arrived the fast group were just leaving and gave good advice as to what to eat. The cafe was a first for some of the group and Bob was very impressed with his 5 bean chilli. The staff were all very helpful in finding space for all the bikes.

Return to Harrogate fairly speedily via Long Marston and Spofforth and as we climbed out of the show ground the sun came out for the first time today. 59 miles. Gia



Long Ride

Sunday's weather forecast was excellent early in the week when I decided it would be an excellent day for a 100-mile ride to Hutton-le-Hole. However, the forecast deteriorated as each day passed and on Saturday, the Radio York forecast was for " Rain in the morning, drying out around midday, but a couple of very heavy

showers in the afternoon will bring lots of surface water and spray on the roads, with possible flooding". Mrs W. asked me why was the weather always bad for my long rides, to which I replied that all the long riders have asked the same question!

So on a cool damp Sunday morning, as I approached our meeting place (Piccadilly Motors in Knaresborough), I could see 2 riders already there, so that scuppered my hope for a return home to spend the day inside in the dry. More arrived so that 5 of us set off at 9am, all in rain jackets. However as we got to the lumpy bits near Coxwold we shed our rain jackets as there were getting wetter inside than outside. At Ampleforth, Nick M. - who hasn't been on a Sunday ride for several months - left us to return home preferring to restrict himself to 60 miles. So 4 of us continued to Hutton-le-Hole for lunch, pausing for photos on either side of 'le Hole'. After our refuelling stop, the weather was many degrees warmer, the heavy skies had lifted and we had a very pleasant return journey via Castle Howard, Bulmer Bank, and a tea stop at Easingwold. Remarkably there were still 4 of us as we arrived back in Knaresborough, so I had returned with 80% of my group. I was reminded that I had set a Wheel Easy record on a previous ride when I started with 11 riders who all dropped out one by one, until I arrived back in Harrogate on my own! So many thanks to Glyn, Trefor and Andy for staying the course on what turned out to be an excellent ride, so much better than forecast, and it seems, better than the weather in Harrogate. We arrived home before 6pm. 101 miles, 4,000' climb, at 14.7mph average speed. Eric W.



