

Sunday, September 4, 2016

Wheel Easy Ride Report 539

Short Ride

I met with three Short Ride riders and discussed the possibility of joining Caroline and Jen for the Slow Medium ride to Wetherby and beyond. Given that Peter and Mary had time deadlines, we decided to return from Wetherby and bade farewell to Sue A who continued with Caroline and Jen for 30+ miles of fitness and fun. We three decided, without hesitation or doubt, that coffee would be a good idea and retired immediately to the North Street Deli where we discussed car drivers and bikes, potholes and Peter's horrid experience with three handlebar topples eventually discovered to be caused by a detached mudguard. We concluded that the fun of cycling, especially Wheel Easy fun, outweighs the odd expletive and bruise so long as that's all. Our return to Hornbeam via the cycle path to Spofforth and thence to Follifoot, Ridding Lane, the Showground and home was undertaken with no unpleasant drivers, potholes or faulty bike parts! Thank you for excellent company. Sue D



Medium Ride

After enjoying a rousing good morning and announcements by Neil (let's have more of the Neil performances....very good), six people eventually decided to do the sedate version of the medium ride. We took a slightly different route to that given on the ride calendar, a reverse of the one everyone else was doing. The merged short ride and their leader SueD. left us at Wetherby for coffee and home. The three remainders went to Boston Spa and Bramham, being greeted by hundreds of WheelEasy medium riders going the other way and then enjoyed a coffee and toast for lunch at North Street Deli where we met yet another W.E. medium group. We made a speedy return via the Harland Way meeting yet more W.E. medium riders, rushing home, as we were, to ride both the Vuelta and the Tour of Britain this afternoon. 32 lovely miles with jolly chatting and gossiping or in the world of fitbitting 19,437 paces and 99 floors. Caroline G

After a very soggy Saturday, Sunday dawned bright but with dubious looking clouds above. There was a definite feeling of autumn. All the same there were sixteen willing takers for the Medium Ride to Wetherby and beyond.

A first group of eight sped off with Steve in the lead- never to be seen again. Caroline had volunteered to take a 'slower' group 'the other way round' at a leisurely pace, which left another eight of us to make our way on the suggested route. A welcome to Tom who was joining us for the first time. It was good to have Dennis to lead the way up the hill to Kirkby Overblow. Here we spied a group of four lurking cyclists who turned out to be some of our Wheel Easy friends waiting patiently for us.

We sped along to Wetherby and picked up the A1 cycle path. Again, another familiar cyclist was waiting for us. Sue O had been prevented from coming to Harrogate by a road closure, so met up with us on the outskirts of Wetherby. It was good to have several local guides, but I managed to out wit them and add in an extra loop to Bramham.

In Clifford we waved to three cheery cyclists- Caroline and co! Just after Boston Spa our number reduced as three (guess who) shot off to Harrogate. The remaining ten agreed to have a coffee stop at Thorpe Arch. Thence to Wetherby and Kirk Deighton where people began to 'peel off'. Seven of us cycled up to the top of Follifoot where we bid farewell to Nicky but met up with Caroline's three. With just the showground hill to do, we managed to loose two, but the rest of us made it to the top. The 'floating' numbers taxed my number skills but another relaxed, friendly ride. Thanks to all for your cheerful company. Alison N



Medium-plus Ride

Objective for the day: confirm that this is the best Medium Plus route on the Calendar. Mind you only two of us, me and Charlie, completed it – Duck Street, Grassington, Burnsall, Bolton Abbey, Ilkley, Farnley, Briscoe Ridge, home. Dave P. had to leave us at Stump Cross to attend to his grandchildren, having undertaken some exemplary back marking. Jackie came with us to Appletreewick, but then tacked back up to Stump Cross – up a proper hill. Sarah suggested adding a loop to Littondale. This was just too good a day, late in the summer, to pass up the chance to go further and after lunch six went off to Littondale while we turned for Threshfield and Burnsall. We had a perfect ride, in the sunshine, with the spectacular views along and above the Wharfe that lifts this route above the others. Eschewing a second stop, we were back in Harrogate by 5pm. 60 miles, and around 4000 feet of climbing. Justin K



Thoughtful and diligent, Team Leader Justin led us safely to our Grassington cafe stop, only to be then shamelessly cast aside by Shepherd Colin and his flock of five lady cyclists. Onward to Kettlewell and lovely Littondale where we rubbed shoulders with the fast boys (& girls?) in the busy village of Arncliffe whilst admiring the stunning limestone bathed in sunshine. A few folk were dangling on bits of string at Kilnsey Crag, but we opted to pull off the main road to saunter back to Grassington and then the prescribed route through Appletreewick, making Abbey Tea Room by the skin of our.....or did we? The door was shut (3.59pm), but kindly reopened for much needed take-away calorie clusters and hot drinks. Asquith Hill claimed some serious moaning from yours truly. As we swooped back from Swinsty, Colin came over all poetic - Rowan berries glinting like jewels in the late afternoon sunshine....

Congratulations to Maris and Janet on their longest ride to date.

Stats: Close enough to 80 to be called 80 and a few pesky bumps for interest. Thanks to all for a great WE day out. Sarah C



Long Ride

Today's ride was a repeat of a previously aborted ride going to Malham and returning via Littondale. Seven riders turned up at Penny Pot Lane on a grey and potentially wet morning. Good progress was made heading towards Embsay via Otley and Bolton Abbey largely accompanied by Bristolians waxing eloquent on the virtues of the city of Bristol. Just after Embsay we caught up with Peter Roberts who had hoped to arrive at Airton before us but underestimated the speed of the peloton. At Airton lots of calories were taken on board in anticipation of the climbs ahead. On informing the group which route to be used to reach Malham Tarn Peter J had a senior moment and mixed up his lefts and rights. We did eventually reach Malham Tarn going up the right-hand side of Malham Cove. Then it was on to do some more amazing climbing with equally amazing sites on the way to Arncliffe. What a surprise to find a bevy of Wheel Easy riders led by Colin T arriving at the same time. After some jolly banter we set off towards Conistone with some of the stronger riders opting for the Hawkswick side of Littondale with the rest taking the main road as an easier option. Again the ride split into two at Grassington with some opting to go via the main road to Stump Cross, the remainder going via Burnsall and Appletreewick. The refreshment stop at Stump Cross was a most welcomed reward for all the effort we had put in so far. Now refreshed and re-fuelled it was back to Harrogate. A tough but enjoyable ride made all the better by good weather and amazing scenery. Peter J





