

Sunday, September 11, 2016

Wheel Easy Ride Report 540

Medium Slow Ride

It was a gorgeous morning as I arrived at Hornbeam to lead my first ride. There was some confusion about numbers but after Lynda's short riders, including newcomer Mary, decided to join us, I counted 14. Yikes! We reached Walton Head Lane safely and enjoyed the views down to Otley as we tootled along. Photo op with view in the background. We proceeded at a stately pace to Wetherby, where there was a slight unscheduled detour by Yours Truly (well, it was my first time), but Caroline and a breakaway group continued on the correct route, where I and the rest caught them up on the bike path and continued to Thorp Arch prison. Somewhere along this path we came upon a fallen tree which Caroline, Bridget and Malcolm attacked with gusto (see photo). Much to the annoyance of 2 very rude cyclists coming the other way, who didn't seem to appreciate that we were moving the tree so they could get past, as well as us.

Here some of us elected to take the bike path, and others the road, meeting up at Boston Spa library for the usual pit stop. We're nothing if not democratic. A discussion as to whether to have coffee there, or hang on until we got back to Wetherby, ensued. We'd decided to stay, and just requisitioned all the outside seating, when someone rushed out of the cafe, ashen faced, to report that there were NO CAKES. We beat a hasty retreat and pressed on to Clifford, Bramham and the A1 cycle path, swept down into Wetherby. Another discussion about where to go for coffee ensued at the Shambles, where Malcolm David, Bridget and Elizabeth chose Union and Filmore and the rest of us descended en masse on the cafe in the Shambles. Suitably restored, we went home via Harland Way, Follifoot, etc. Lovely ride, gorgeous day, good company. Thanks to everyone for being so patient with their leader. And well done to Mary for making it all the way round, having only intended to do a Short Ride. App 31 mi.



Medium Ride

What a lovely day for a cycle ride, albeit a very hilly one. Strangely enough, most of the regulars opted for the slow medium ride. So an "elite" (who are you kidding? - Ed) group of nine riders set off for them thar hills. The weather and the views were glorious as we topped Little Armscliff then dropped down to Fewston. We had to put the hammer down for the climb up to Timble and steeper still was to follow as we climbed over Askwith

Moor. But everything that goes up must come down so we had some recovery time on the long freewheel down to Askwith village (somebody there does very nice fresh eggs apparently). Cockpit Farm hove into view where we stopped for some refreshment and a chat in the sunshine.

On to Otley and up the hill to Farnley where we had a group decision to deviate from the published route (sorry Ride Planners), turned right to Lindley Bridge then climbed up to the B6161. After a couple of miles, we turned down Briscoe Ridge Lane to Burn Bridge and home.

A fantastic ride on a beautiful early autumn day and great company. We're so lucky to have rides like this on our doorstep. About 27 miles. Al D



Medium-Plus Ride

On a nice autumnal morning there was the usual large group of Medium Plusers, but this was soon whittled down as Alan, Steve and Michael were sent on their own way with other faster boys and Alston and Sally deserted to the Medium group. As a result two groups of seven/eight handed off keeping more or less an even pace between them through Knaresborough and out to Arkendale, Great Ouseburn and across Alwark Bridge, where they came together to maintain a fast pace to Alne and Easingwold when we caught up with faster group lounging on bean bags outside The Curious Table, waiting to be served their goodies. As usual the service and quality was very good and having re-caffeinated we headed for Coxwold, where Gia kindly took a group home on the prescribed route through Carlton Husthwaite, Sessay and Boroughbridge, whilst the remainder opted for one of Colin's famed "additional loops" via Byland Abbey, Kilburn and Bagby which was the icing on the cake of a very good day. Returning through Boroughbridge we took the opportunity to patronise Listers Farm Shop and then headed home via Knaresborough where your truly was able to drop off home without having to tackle Knaresborough Hill again. 64 miles on a lovely late summers day for those who did the additional loop and approx 58 for those who didn't. Great company as usual and thanks to all for the company and support. James G





Starting out on a golden late summer's day is always a pleasure as eight intrepid riders set off into the morning sun for Vale of York and beyond after some garment shedding at Low Bridge we left Knaresborough at an ever increasing pace soon past Great Ouseburn and down to Aldwark's wooden bridge...no iceberg's there today! As we approached Alne the pace had really cranked up and personal average speed records were up for grabs so it was no real surprise that we stopped at Easingwold's Curious Table, their beanbags on the green looked very comfy indeed, after a brief debate over cheese scones....there were only two left....most settled for the blueberry one.

Once back on the move one number down, as Alan wanted to put in some extra miles,...is he mad!? we reached the hillier section of the ride the pace had slowed a little....phew!! Up into Oulston and downhill passed historic Newburgh Priory (the Augustian priory was founded on lands granted by William the Conqueror no less and is famous for Margaret Tudor spending a night there on her progress to meet husband James IV of Scotland) and into the lovely village of Coxwold and onwards through Little Sessay and Pilmoor. The road between Thornton Bridge....(still not finished yet) and Boroughbridge does lend it self to heads down and flat out and today was no different. After Boroughbridge we opted for a different route back through to Roecliffe and up to Markington. Legs were tiring now and the hill after Hob Green was making the them scream but the reward is a brisk decent into Ripley and back to town. A fun day out which everyone seemed to enjoy.

Tony P

Long Ride

The long ride enjoyed a very pleasant 80 mile route along quiet roads with superb views and great company. Peter R suggested a new café in Thirsk with a quiet garden; it's at the back of a book shop on Millgate in the market place, but old habits die hard and several riders preferred the warm welcome of Café Arabica (where service was definitely more suited to the cyclists pace). This was the only split of the ride other than a temporary loss of two riders who missed a right turn just after Kilburn and we all arrived back in Knaresborough along with Colin's med+ group at about 4.15. A superb day out. Phil S