

Sunday, October 2, 2016

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 543

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### Medium Ride

Eleven takers for the 'standard' medium ride today led by Gordon. Sue Downes was leading the same ride more slowly, but in the opposite direction to ours. Weather looked quite good with moderate northerly winds. We set off along the main road to Woodlands Corner and immediately got mixed up with the medium plus ride and probably with Sue Downes's lot too. By the time we got to Low Bridge it seemed that there were hundreds of WheelEasy! members milling around, including, of course, the EGs. We had some banter with a Traffic Warden there, who confirmed that he had no powers to give cyclists a ticket, and then on towards Farnham and Ferrensby. The congestion of cyclists had eased by that point and we headed gently eastwards towards Marton cum Grafton and the Dunsforths, coming across a recently-planted vineyard in Upper Dunsforth. On to Aldborough, where Geraldine fell off when getting back on her bike, and then Boroughbridge, where Alison left us for a more pressing appointment. To general surprise, Gordon joined us at Gilchrists and had a 7-up, I think. Paul Blackham left promptly after coffee. Some discussions about the route back took place, and it was decided that the Mountgarret Estate and Ripley was a more appealing route than the published one via Farnham and Knaresborough, so we went through Roecliffe, Burton Leonard, Limekiln Lane and over the ford/bridge to Rakes Lane and then left on the track which is part of Ripon Rowell towards Brearton, but turning right towards Nidd and then Ripley and back along the Greenway. We saw lots of cyclists on our ride, many of whom were MAMILS and overtook us at speed, and at least two tandems, or maybe it was three if we didn't see the same one twice. About 35 miles CPS



### Medium Slow Ride

An absolutely glorious Autumn morning promised a lovely cycling day. Gordon and I had a brief discussion about our designated Medium route and decided that he would lead a very large number of "fasties" as described on the WE calendar. I, on the other hand would go backwards! Undaunted, eleven "sedatives" were willing to join me in the challenge!

We joined a massed gathering of cyclists at Low Bridge and thence to Chain Lane and off to Scriven, Lingerfield, Farnham, Burton Leonard and Bishop Monkton. By this time, John and Judith had issued their very kind invitation to have coffee and eats at their home in Roecliffe. This had been eagerly and gratefully accepted and John hared off to prepare for the forthcoming invasion. Our excellent back marker, Geography Graham, failed to appear in Bishop Monkton together with Caroline and Neil. Sue A was quite concerned but GG had assured her that she knew the route backwards!!!! Thus, those still hanging on in there progressed through delightful country to Chez Judith and John. Two miles before Roecliffe GG and her entourage appeared so we were able to converge en masse at the gates. We gathered on the patio in John's and Judith's beautiful garden and ate copious amounts of cake and biscuits washed down with mugs of coffee and tea. Chester, the black retriever,

proved an excellent host welcoming everyone with tailwagging enthusiasm especially where plates of cakes were apparent! By this time, Dennis had left us for the delights of Dorothy's Sunday lunch. Relaxing in the garden was truly delightful – so delightful that when we checked the hour, time had passed and panic set in for those who had afternoon appointments. The decision was made to abandon the Dunsforths and head for home via Minskip and Staveley to Knaresborough and all points onward. Judith and John (who had left their car at Hornbeam) plus Skipton Linda, Bridget and Geography Graham departed via Beryl while the remaining five of us returned via Bogs Lane to our various destinations. Thank you, the "Sedatives" for lovely, cheerful company and extra thanks to Judith and John for convivial victuals and canine company. Sue D



### Short ride

A lovely clear, dry and sunny, if a little bit cold today at the start.

Only three riders joined me for the short ride from Hornbeam to the Showground, along Rudding Lane and Hags Road into Spofforth. A choice of North Deighton or Little Ribston was debated but having plenty of time, North Deighton it was.

Back at the Lido, Ruth and Mary went for a coffee, whilst Peter and I headed home, not quite enough time to stay and enjoy the sun.

Thanks to Peter, Ruth and Mary for your company. SueT



### **Medium Plus Gia's Group**

This was a very popular ride today with about 30 members choosing to cycle to Masham on a glorious October morning. Jeannie wanted to check the rules about wearing shorts and we assured her that 10 degrees was a marker for some of us and today certainly qualified.

There was a melee at Low Bridge with the medium riders collecting there too but soon order prevailed and our groups settled nicely into manageable groups and headed for our first stop, the loos by the Cathedral.

Approaching Snape and thinking about Masham cafe shock we stopped at the Arboretum for lunch where the self service provision was good and quick and we all sat out in the sunshine. We were in and out within about half an hour.

The ride up to Masham with the wind on our backs was great and on out of Masham the long slog after Swinton did not seem too bad. We stopped to admire Rosebery Topping and soon after Colin left for pastures which we were not quite sure where!

Colin's fairground ride description is perfect for the descent from the Himalayan Garden all the way to Ripon. Here we chose to ride home via Burton Leonard, the Mountgarret estate and the Greenway. A great ride, a first for some, especially for the arboretum and well done for those as some of this ride is a bit of a mission. Home in the sunshine, a fabulous ride. Great company about 62 miles. Gia



### **Medium Plus Dave's Group**

Mr. Toad was not quite right when he announced "that there is absolutely nothing half so much worth doing as messing about in boats". I spent all last week sailing on the Dalmation Coast, and very pleasant it was too. However, hopeful that my sailing mates are unlikely to read this report, it has to be said that we had a day today that will be very very hard to beat.

The formula is pretty easy to follow; you need great weather; a route within one's capacity; and most of all, a splendid bunch of like minded fellow cyclists.

Today we got the lot. In Spades.

Bright and sunny with not too much wind; a few, but not too many hills; and the players.

Three D's, four J's, a Helen, and a Keith. Plenty of lively discussion all the way to Johnny Baghdad's excellent pitstop, where I had the Olympic Gold Medal version of, yes you've guessed, beans on toast. There was so much, I struggled with the last few beans. I did notice though, that one petite fellow rider polished off her portion in fine style. (There's a clue in there as to who that might have been). I would be happy to pit her against the EG Consumer Champion Dan.

Swinton Park Hill wasn't too bad today, taken at a fairly leisurely pace, and after the long downhill into Grewelthorpe, we bid farewell to Helen and Keith who had other ideas regarding the route home.

A gentle cruise back to Hornbeam showed around 60 miles on the clock.

Thanks to Jill, Janet, Jen, Jacky, and Helen, as well as Dave, Dennis, and Keith for the banter and support. Dave S.



### **Medium Plus Faster Ride**

9 of us departed Hornbeam Park. A few of us got delayed at the Woodlands lights and were playing catch up before we'd even started.

Outside Bishop Monkton, David had an issue with his rear derailleurs so decided to head back before he got too far from home.

Alan and myself who are just coming back from being ill were not feeling 100% and it wasn't long before the faster guys rode off into the distance.

Unfortunately one of the faster guys suffered a puncture and the two of us were the first to arrive in Masham and grab the comfy sofa at Johnny Baghdads.

After sandwiches and coffee we battled up the long hard (for me) never-ending climb out of Masham and rode home with the wind pushing us along at a steady pace.

Nice route. Good weather but one too many hills for my liking lol. Declan

### **Long Ride**

A wonderful turnout at Hornbeam Park showed great enthusiasm by Wheel Easy members for the day's activities, probably - like me - thinking this may be the last really good cycling Sunday before clocks go back, and rides are curtailed by shortened daylight hours. However there were only 6 takers for today's long ride, and with only 4 knees on display out of a possible 12, it was clearly evidence that, despite the sunshine, there was a definite autumnal nip in the air.

Our ride took us out via Boroughbridge, Carlton Husthwaite and Kilburn to the invigorating climb up White Horse bank. The climb is always rewarded by a well earned refreshment stop at the glider club perched on the cliff, several hundred feet above the Vale of York, undoubtedly one of the best viewpoints in Yorkshire. It was well before midday when we stopped there for our early lunch. Two of our group, Peter J and Martin, had time constraints requiring an early return to Harrogate, so they made their own way home from there, whilst the remaining 4 descended to Rievaulx followed by another steep climb to the main road taking us into Helmsley, and then via Harome and Slingsby to Castle Howard. The long range views across Ryedale were quite remarkable. We arrived in Easingwold shortly before 3pm, and called in at the excellent sweet shop cum coffee shop for tea and cakes before the final leg of the ride back to Harrogate. At Aldwark Toll Bridge Phil decided to take a more leisurely pace, and instructed the remaining 3 (Bob, Glyn and I) to speed on our way, which we duly did. Arrived home at 5.10pm after 87 miles, and 4,900' of ascent, at an average speed on 15.2mph. Eric W.



