

Sunday, November 13, 2016

Wheel Easy Ride Report 549

Short Ride

Five set off on the short ride on a sunny but chilly autumn morning. We had a beautiful ride up to Stainburn Forrest. - blue skies and clear views

At the end of Penny Pot lane Sue left us as she needed to get home early. Five became four.

Over the A59 and we rode towards Menwith and by this time the air was warming. A right towards Hampsthwaite and once again we enjoyed fabulous view to our left.

Hampsthwaite - Sophie's and four crispy bacon sandwiches.

Drinks drunk sandwiches enjoyed and time to set off again. We chose the short steep route up Clint Bank along to Ripley and then back to Harrogate.

Thank you for a great ride. Total distance 24 mile. Lynda Newhouse

Medium Ride

Group 1

There were so many folks at Hornbeam that we had to split up into three separate rides. My group was made up of nine very competent and fit riders - so fit at times your Leader was hanging on to the coat tails of this energetic bunch! We had a first pause at Ripley after cycling along the Greenway, then through Hollybank Woods, still vivid with autumnal colours. Soon we were up at Burnt Yates and then at 11am we stopped for the one minute Remembrance at a beautiful spot overlooking Nidderdale. Onwards and upwards towards Brimham I met a running friend Moira striding out along the lane. Then we headed into Brimham Rocks riding our bikes along the track to the coffee stall. The National Trust coffee and cake were consumed sitting in the sunshine, and then we set off turning left out of the car park and followed the fantastic descent through Warsill down to Bishop Thornton and Ripley. A fabulous downhill blast! Finally it was homeward back along the Greenway. 28 miles in great company and glorious weather. Martin W.





Group 2

Despite the abundance of slippery leaves, there was a large group of 'takers' for the Medium Ride on a lovely, sunny morning. A big thank you to Martin for taking over leadership duties as I was rather befuddled thanks to a lingering cold.

As there were 30 riders, we negotiated the edge of Harrogate in small groups, re-assembled at Ripley and split into groups there. Martin set off first with a group and Paul B kindly took a 3rd group.

Our band of 10 meandered along, with the conversation flowing as usual. (Most popular topic- a certain D. Trump) Near Burnt Yates, Allison and Dennis left us to get back to Harrogate as quickly as possible. In no time at all, the rest of us were speeding down towards Rabbit Farm and then Ripley. A perfect ride for an autumn day with the usual cheerful conversation and company. Thanks to Justin for 'lingering at the back'. Alison N.

Group 3

How easily one can be persuaded to write a ride report. A simple question on the condition of a golden grandchild and some silly old bats will do anything for you. So Paul B thank you also for waiting patiently for everyone to catch up as we trundled up what had become a ridiculously steep Holly Bank (had the newly tarmacked road been tilted during resurfacing), a beautifully newly surfaced Clint Bank. Before tackling yet another beautifully surfaced road up to Brimham Rocks, we had a two minutes silence, in which time we were subjected to a spider attack.....with everyone in a white, silver or yellow jacket or helmet suddenly appeared to be under attack from mini-spiders. We decided that the cafe at Brimham would be closed as it was winter....and we would have to go to the expensive cafe at Ripley. Just as Monica and I passed Brimham, however, Monica met gentlemanly Peter B who told us he was rushing home and the rest of his group was still having a wonderful sit-in outside sampling the delights of the Brimham cafe. As we cycled up to test out the joys of the toilet facilities of Brimham we met Martin's group who kindly said they could recommend the cafe and would certainly tell Leader PB that we had strayed and not wait for the two stranglers. The downhill super zoom to Ripley completed speedily allowed us to see a very fast W.E. group leaving Ripley Castle Cafe and meet up with the coffee and cake takers of the Slow Medium group, who assured us that all the group had returned home to family and carers without damage. A very quick pedal along the Greenway got two of us, at least, home in record time. 28 miles in under 7 hours, having done 11,873 paces 67 floors etc, etc. Apologies to all the people who had to wait in a club-like fashion for strays. Caroline G

Medium Plus Ride

Group 1

Having been blessed with another lovely Autumn morning there was a good turnout at Hornbeam and having been at the Ride Leaders Course yesterday I was very conscious of my duties, but knowing the theory is all very well and it is a different matter when it comes to putting it into practice!! However having "persuaded" Michael Inglis, who happily was also on the Leaders Course, to take the faster group the remainder made their way to Low Bridge in bits and pieces where another attempt to divide into groups was a bit more successful with six or seven heading off and leaving remaining Super Six to follow through Knaresborough and Arkendale to Great Ouseburn just in time to stop and observe the Two Minute silence at 11-00am. The call of furniture moving was then irresistible to Paul who headed off to help his daughter and family with removals and the Fabulous Five continued over Aldwark Bridge and on to Easingwold without incident. As the faster group were just vacating the Curious Table we thought our luck was in for securing an inside table, but not so as it had been reserved and as the saying goes "there was no room at the Inn" and so we decamped across the Square and in the

Teahee cafe just in time before the Remembrance Day Parade broke up and everyone else headed for the cafes. The move was a good one as the cafe was excellent. The proprietor and staff were very helpful directing us to the outside seating area at the rear where we could leave our bikes safely and then providing both good food and good service which was on a par if not better than The Curious Table. So for future visits to Easingwold this is another good stopping place. After the photo opportunity with the help of the staff and courtesy of Dave P, we reluctantly moved off to return through Raskelf, Helperby, Boroughbridge and into Knaresborough, having a quick stop at Milby to do an outdoor shot and a rather miss-aligned selfie. In Knaresborough my Ride Leaders sense of duty deserted me and I was allowed to go straight home whilst Dave P, Monica, Maris and Jeanie made their way back to Harrogate and home. Another lovely day out with great company, for which many thanks and another cafe to add to the list. About 47 miles give or take a nice sunny morning and only about 3 spots of rain just before home. James G





Group 2

With the weather this morning looking much more promising than last week we separated into our respective groups at Hornbeam then headed to Low Bridge - where we re-arranged ourselves again. Once we decided who was in what group, Alan led the slightly faster of us and we headed towards Great Ouseburn.

We managed to lose Mike - who is now the Medium Plus rides for part of the ride. He got held up at the Aldwark wooden toll bridge and missed a left turn but thankfully he knew where to go and we all met up at the Curious Table in Easingwold.

After filling up on baked beans and toast and tea cakes our departure was delayed when Alan's bike lock wouldn't unlock. It looked like the combination had managed to change slightly while in transport but luckily Alan guessed the correct combination and we were off.

We departed with some uplifting music from the Easingwold Brass Band who were out for a Remembrance Day Service.

We headed back into Harrogate via Boroughbridge, Knaresborough and up that horrible Knaresborough hill - which never seems to get any easier. All in all - a great day's cycling. Now all I need to do is find the energy to clean my ever so slightly muddy bike :-)

Declan Malone



Group 3

A group of regular faster medium plus riders (Michael, Paul, Andy, David and two Marks) headed out without an official leader to see if we could figure out the route as we went. Fortunately collective memory prevailed and we made good time to the Curious Table cafe in Easingwold. Over coffee, Mark Townend talked about The Struggle sportive in May and did such a good job of selling it that several of us are now intending to ride it (<https://ridethestruggle.com>). On the way back into Harrogate we were joined by Bob Johnson and companion for a speedy run home. Thanks to all for a good ride (approx 52 miles at over 15mph average) in good weather! Michael I

Long Ride

A beautiful morning and not surprisingly there was a good turnout for the long ride to the Druids Temple café near Masham. It was one of those rides where there was a degree of uncertainty about the participants. I believe 8 of us left Hornbeam but we were soon joined by Eric at Knox. Jill was tempted to leave us at Dallowgill but wisely decided the fine day was too good to miss. No such change of heart for Justin or Peter R both of whom left us somewhere around Grewelthorpe, but surprisingly we were joined by Paul who had apparently been looking for us since Fellbeck.

The hilly terrain led to hearty appetites, and lunch at Bivouac café was efficient, friendly and reasonably priced despite a number of horror stories regarding previous visits.

The return journey via Masham, Snape, Carthorpe, Ripon and Knaresborough was pleasant, easy-going and uneventful. All most enjoyable, about 65 miles, returning home just as the light was beginning to fail and a light drizzle starting. Phil S



