

Sunday, November 27, 2016

Wheel Easy Ride Report 551

Short Ride

Another wind free, rain free, autumnal type morning, so we were in luck again. Seven people opted to do the shortish sedate ride and even the legend that is El Butler decided to join us. I think, to some, the lure of Weirdly Bank was not quite as alluring as it might have been. We took a round about route to Knaresborough, a different road to Scriven, a well-known road to Scotton and Brearton in perfect conditioned contentment. THEN it actually started to rain and the route ahead was shrouded in murk. That was not in the plan. Judith and John decided this was not for them and headed for Harrogate and an escape home. Five determined souls decided to stick with it and do the little loop round Mountgarret's pheasant patches before turning their thoughts to coffee. As we returned to the road to Nidd from our loop we met Graham and Nicky who were re-cycling a sedate ride for a future date and were very keen to coffee. El Bulter had a Sunday lunch date with Dorothy and sped off down the Greenway. Coffee, tea and chocolate taken, chat chatted, the world put to rights, we pedalled home via the Greenway where a lone cyclist asked where the nearest cafe in Harrogate was. Waitrose was all that came to mind..... A gentle 24 miles of making the most of the backend of the year. Thank you for your lovely company and thoughtful group riding. CG

Medium Ride

Dave Preston had a mechanical and fell from his bike just before the Eccup reservoir crossing. He appears to be OK. Sadly because the ride had become too spread out and some riders were either trying to keep up or catch up there was no support available. Thanks Justin for trying to find us.

As a ride leader I expect support from the groups that I lead. Sadly, in the main, today that support was missing? In the 9 years of being a ride leader I have never left anyone behind. In recent months I have noticed increasing levels of selfishness and lack of consideration for others by some WE members. Today I have witnessed this again. Might I suggest that when faster riders are offered the opportunity to form a quicker group they take it or even join a more appropriate ride. Some could even volunteer to lead rides. There are vacancies and now there is another. Max Graham





Medium Plus Ride

A trip to Ilkley in the sunshine was the plan and it almost worked. 12 hopefuls set off towards Little Almscliffe and the reservoirs. Such a lovely day how lucky we are to live in such a fine place. Beautiful views across the moor still some autumn colours to admire.

Up to Timble and then the mist/low cloud/light rain started as we climbed up to the top of Askwith not very pleasant and all views spoiled.

4 riders left to coffee at Cock Pit farm and 8 continued at a good pace to the station café in Ilkley, we were fortunate to be accommodated inside as it was still raining. Suitably refreshed we returned to the metal bridge via Ben Rhydding and kept the pace up as it was chilly.

The route took us by the river in Otley and down to Leathley where James ever the gent helped a forlorn lady motorist with her wing mirror.

Up to Almscliffe Crag via the Stainburn Road which was a new route for several riders and luckily the sun returned enabling us to have a sunny photo.

Back home along the ridge with more great vistas and on to North Rigton and Brackenthwaite Lane a really pleasant ride with jolly company and not much excitement except the curious incident with James' trousers! We'll keep that tale to ourselves! 40 miles Sue Couture



Long Ride

Seven of us set off on the ride, but two (Glynn A and Rob M) immediately announced they would be leaving the ride at a suitable point to cycle back to their respective homes in Leeds. The first climb up Brackenthwaite Lane got our temperatures and heart rates up. This was quickly followed by the climbs to North Rigton and then Almscliffe Crag: Wharfedale and Otley Chevin were looking magnificent in the November sunshine. Soon we were on the long climb up to Langbar, but sadly the sun had disappeared - never to reappear - and we found ourselves climbing through cloud and drizzle. Thankfully the cloud moved down the valley as we approached the summit of Langbar so, having wiped the rain from our glasses, we could admire the view, and take a photo. A few minutes later we arrived at the Abbey Tea Room at Bolton Abbey, only to find it already full, so we continued into the village where 6 of us found the 'Tea on the Green' café almost empty and very pleasant it was too. Glynn had left us at this point to make his way home. So 6 of us took the gated road to Embsay, where Rob departed for Skipton and Leeds, whilst the remaining 5 climbed up to Bardon Moor, where we paused for another photo-shoot overlooking Wharfedale and across to Simon's Seat.

A little later we were on the long climb from Appletreewick (see photo of Phil on the climb) and a few minutes after taking the photo, Phil's bike went into self-destruct mode - big time! His rear gear hanger snapped: the rear derailleur mechanism - freed from its hanger - then tried to go round with the chain, which it did for just a few inches until it embedded itself in the rear spokes, dislodged the mudguard stays, snapping the mudguard, and seizing the rear wheel bringing Phil and bike to an extremely abrupt stop. Such was the damage that cycling back to Harrogate was impossible and a rescue was required. Phil used his chain splitter to remove his chain and gear mechanism so the rear wheel could turn again. I phoned Di to bring the support vehicle from Harrogate. Trefor, Richard L and Colin P continued back to Harrogate arriving home about 4pm after 60 miles and 5,000' climbing. Meanwhile Phil and I made our way from Fancarl House to Stump Cross Cavern, by Phil freewheeling downhill, walking uphill, and me cycling alongside pushing Phil and bike along the level. We made it to Stump Cross Caverns remarkably quickly in the circumstances where we enjoyed tea and cake until Di arrived. We arrived home at 4.15 having covered 41 miles by bike, and climbed 4,500'. Quite an eventful long ride! Eric.





Andy Clarkson's Ride

Three and a Broken Arm Go to Cock Pit Farm – Having fallen off after hitting a pothole on 24th September and broken my upper left arm clean through cycling has been somewhat off the agenda for me. Nine weeks on the bone has knitted together. However there's still a fair amount of pain from nerve damage in the area of the break and from my elbow which took most of the impact. A couple of spins on the Turbo indicated that whilst I wasn't unsafe holding onto the handlebars it was quite painful, however this week I eyed up the Wheel Easy Ride Calendar and considered my options. Saturday was bright and sunny so I decided a test ride was in order. I rode a loop round to Beckwithshaw, down to Burn Bridge and back about 10 miles in total. The ride was a success but not a total success. Effectively I was in constant albeit bearable pain and hill climbing was restricted to sitting down, low gears and being patient. My immediate reaction was I wasn't yet ready for a Wheel Easy ride especially as the obvious choice went up Weardley Bank. So it was time for a Plan B and I decided to try a potter to Cock Pit Farm. Having stated this intention I had welcome offers of company from David Wilson and Ian Newall plus an invitation from Bob Johnson to meet afterwards for a pint. Overall it went well and whilst my initial plan had been to stick to the flatter main road in the event we went via Kirkby Overblow and Dunkeswick. Cockpit Farm wasn't too busy and provided a warm and welcome break. On leaving here the big question was did we climb over to Timble or take the flat way home. It was my call and I opted for Timble. Askwith Bank was achieved courtesy of a triple chainset with speed at the top down to 3 mph however the height gained was useful and allowed us to roll back to Harrogate relatively easily. We arrived in failing light at the Shepherds Dog at 3.00pm to find Bob Johnson and Geoff Morgan waiting for us. Thirty miles covered in total at just less than 12mph average. The arm was complaining by the end but feels better today. Andy C

