

Sunday, January 22, 2017

Wheel Easy Ride Report 558

Short Ride

Dennis, Sally, Paul W., had things to do so decided to join me on a quick careful jaunt round Knaresborough, Lingerfield, Scotton, to Ripley and home along the Greenway. Laura joined us fleetingly but being dressed for a speedy bike ride she quickly got cold and decided to go home. We were treated to blue sky and sun, saw no ice and were home in time for elevenses as no one wanted to stop for coffee. Thank you for your company and patience... a gentle 18 miles painlessly consumed. CG

Medium Plus Ride

A cold and icy January Sunday where a few stalwart cyclists arrived at Hornbeam for the rides. Around 20 cyclists opted for the medium plus, Andrew agreed to lead Group 2 of 5 cyclists, Andrew, Mike W, Liz F, and two Steve's. Andrew led us up to Almscliff Crag where Jackie and Andy (2) joined us. It was quite chilly and a grey gloom was the vista, but we were glad to be out cycling despite the chill. Down to Fewston, where Andrew's disc brakes seized, he soon had them repaired and onward we cycled to Timble. The climbs helped to warm our hands and toes as we cycled up more hills then down the lovely sweeping road into Askwith and a warm welcome at Cockpit café. The place was full of cyclists, but we managed to squeeze in. Jackie suddenly felt the cold and we had to do musical chairs, as we squashed and squeezed together so she could get next to the radiator, then Liz joined in the fun, with Jackie causing the most chaos. It was quite quiet in there when we arrived despite the large number of other cyclists and the noise level soon rose with our banter and jokes. After drinks, delicious teacakes, bacon butties and scrambled eggs, plus some free well done bacon, soon scoffed by Mike and a few others, reluctantly we had to leave the warmth of the café. A queue for the loo and a photo shot in the garden chilled us, before we set off at a fairly quick pace into Otley and onto Pool. At Otley Andy (2) left us to go back home to Darley to get the car to pick Jackie up for when we returned to Harrogate. From Pool along the lovely back road to Castley and along the riverside up to Kirby Overblow where the group decided to go via Burnt Bridge back to Harrogate. Despite the cold, a few sprinkles of snow we had a lovely ride of 36 miles, with lots of hills and plenty of laughs to keep us warm. Thanks to Andrew for leading and Mike singing us up the hills. Liz F



Paul's Medium Plus Ride

Caroline very kindly offered to lead the short ride for me thus giving me the opportunity to ride one of my favourite routes to Timble and over the moors to Askwith. By the time we

had reached Beckwithshaw Sarah and Peter had gone ahead as they intended to add an extra loop up Langbar. It was certainly a cold morning and we were looking forward to coffee at Cock Pit Farm. However, as it was full to the rafters with cyclists and we didn't fancy sitting outside we opted to continue onto Pool. To our surprise it was Dave Siswick's first visit to the farm shop. After refreshments we returned home via Almscliffe Crag where it was starting to snow. It was at this stage that Gia started shouting 'Malcolm' in the hope he would hear her as he was walking to the Crag this morning instead of cycling. Unfortunately there was no reply! Once again a great ride in good company. Thanks James, Dave, Monica and Gia. Paul T.



Medium Plus Ride Langbar Loop

We resisted the delights of Cock Pitt Farm, turning R at Asquith, to enjoy the bump and beauty that is Langbar where sun threatened. Local knowledge from Peter secured a perfect lunch stop Cafe, just beyond Abbey Tea Rooms. Over the River Wharfe on the wooden footbridge and more climbing through Strid Wood to witness the demise of a much beloved oak tree, where many a WE photo has been taken on glorious summer days. But, mighty oaks from little acorns grow - and there indeed we spied a young sapling. Let us hope it too brings joy to those who saunter by.

Onward toward Appletreewick before heading for the hills that lead to Stump Cross Cavern (2 warm apples pies and hot custard - don't tell 'em), Duck Street and home. A good 50 miles.

Many thanks to Peter for a great day we both enjoyed. Sarah C



Medium Plus Faster Ride

Cold weather had thinned the size of the usual group at Hornbeam. Volunteer Needed and I were down to lead medium plus. James Grimshaw offered to look after one sub-group and another sub-group decided to go 'self led'. I led the faster group, consisting of Paul, Mark, Steve and Peter. The cold ensured we set off at a fair pace to generate some heat, with the climb up Norwood Lane past Little Almscliffe a welcome opportunity to regain feeling in fingers and toes. We arrived at Cock Pitt Farm just as it opened at 1100, which promptly went from empty to full with cyclists within 15 mins. When we set off again, there was a

brief debate about taking in more hills rather than sticking to the planned route. Peter and Steve headed home on the planned route via Weeton and Kirby Overblow, while Mark, Paul and I indulged in the challenge of Norwood Edge (a climb rated as 5/10 in the "100 Greatest Cycling Climbs" book) and then a high speed blast back into Harrogate along Penny Pot Lane, having completed 31 miles and 2065ft of climbing at an average speed of 12.1mph. An early shower today (I was home by 1.00pm!), but good company and a useful and enjoyable workout. Michael Inglis

Medium Ride

There is a less-well-known Jimi Hendrix song which contains the line 'if six turned out to be nine, I don't mind'. Well, nor do I, which is just as well, because the initial six at Hornbeam rapidly became seven and then nine at Low Bridge. I had not been quick enough to hide when James asked for volunteers for a medium ride leader, and I was unwise enough to say I had looked at the route. So off we went through Hookstone Woods (new to some) to Forest Moor Road and Low Bridge, with Dave Preston doing the honours as back-marker (and you can't get a better ride leader or back marker than Dave P). As we made our way towards Farnham and Bishop Monkton we encountered a large number of temporary traffic lights, some of which refused to recognise bikes and kept us waiting for ages. This brought to mind another Jimi Hendrix lyric, 'the traffic lights they turn out blue tomorrow' even though none of our lights went blue. Dave P quite rightly suggested that the pace was a bit fast, so action was taken to reduce it. From Bishop Monkton we headed north to Littlethorpe, where Mike had a puncture. Did I mention that it was rather cold? While the puncture was being fixed, which took some time, the bulk of the peloton were standing around trying to keep warm. Across the Ure and then south towards Boroughbridge, where we chose BEAN for a café, as Dave P had not been there before. By this time we were back down to six, but we had excellent coffee and cakes, and we spent rather a long time discussing weighty matters such as politics, economics (and maybe a hint of philosophy?).

On leaving the café, Alistair, Justin and Mike sped on back, whilst I discovered that I had a broken spoke and a buckled wheel. Dave P, Geraldine and I limped home via Minskip, Stavely and Knaresborough. About 35 miles. CPS





Long Ride

Whoever: Eric W, Glynn F, Peter R and Phil S. This constitutes a record turnout for a Sunday long ride in 2017.

Wherever: The café stop was at Strid Wood café. Perhaps it was a mistake to stop before the advertised destination of Burnsall, as the entire group decided to take the shortcut at Barden Tower.

Whatever: 53 miles.

Whenever: Home for 2.30.

Surprisingly, a very enjoyable ride for such a cold day. We derived great entertainment from 3 cycling thermometers reporting different temperatures. According to one Garmin it was never above freezing while another reported it was never below freezing. The general consensus would be a maximum of 3 with a minimum of 1. The upside was that there was almost no wind; even the flag at Fancarl House, near Stumpcross, was completely limp. Thanks to all. Phil S.

