

Sunday, February 5, 2017

Wheel Easy Ride Report 560

Short Ride

This route took us past no fewer than 6 pubs, so the runs in the following report refer to the Venerable Game of Pub Cricket. If you have never entered into the delights of distracting a car full of adults and children on a long journey with this game then ask me to tell you more one day. These days of motorway travel have detracted from it but any cross country journey is livened up by it. Ten of us set off from Hornbeam and we steadily climbed following cycle paths up past Ashville School and on to drop down past the Squinting Cat (4 runs). Onwards past the Smith's Arms (4 more runs =8). Over the Moors past Little Almscliffe Crag we dropped down past the Sun Inn (No runs, out, next player). Then we climbed up to pass the now closed Black Bull (4 runs) and were lucky to get a warming coffee at the Queen's Head at Kettlesing (No runs, out, next player). By now we're down to six riders but with the sun peeping out we continued along some of my favourite meandering back lanes near High Birstwith to eventually drop down to Birstwith and the Station Inn (No runs, out, next player). We climbed up to Clint Bank and returned home along Hollybank Lane and the Greenway, in the process passing the Boar's Head (again no runs). So that was it - if only we could have passed The Coach and Horses (probably 20 runs), or better still the Charge of the Light Brigade (3000 runs!). Could this be a new method of devising ride routes? Clue for those now completely puzzled - count the legs? Martin W.



Medium Ride

It was great, just great. We had the most yellow jackets, the most chatter, the biggest group [alternative fact], the best café, the most under rated ride. It was beautiful, just beautiful.

Eleven opted for a nostalgic route- Knox Bridge, Hampsthwaite, the whole of Clint bank, Cut Throat Lane, Markington, Bishop Monkton, Knaresborough. Liz P kept a careful eye on us from the back. We all agreed it was a lovely route, parts of which we hadn't cycled for ages. Peter left us at the Drovers, while Paul declined the café- both to attend to domestic tasks. More than satisfied with both service and food at the On Riverside, the café hunt began. The

first café was 'loo-less', so then it was left to Fiona to sniff out the best cakes. She did well. We were all satisfied with both service and food at 'The Black Mulberry' café. As usual the conversation ranged over many topics- chief of which were hip and knee ops and obtaining power of attorney. Of course, this is no reflection on our stage in life. All in all- it was a great ride in great company. Alison N



Medium Plus Ride

A lovely ride in an unusual direction (for me, at least). About 20 people opted for Med+ this week. We split into two groups at Hornbeam which became four just after Knaresborough and two more riders went ahead just before Ripon. I hope they all enjoyed the ride as much as the remaining 10!

As per the script, we headed through Knaresborough along Waterside and Ripon via Farnham and Bishop Monkton. We skirted through Ripon towards Studley Roger and then turned right to Galphay. It's quite a tiring uphill four miles to Galphay so we paused for breath on the village green before heading off towards Grantley. At the signpost 'Grantley 1 mile' we turned right towards Dallowgill and onto the moorland before turning left back towards Grantley again - adding a nice 5 mile loop to the 1 mile journey. Then it was

downhill and up again to a good cafe stop at the extended G & Ts at Risplith. The hills began again immediately afterwards as we headed towards Pateley, then turning left and skirting Brimham Rocks and so back to Harrogate via Burnt Yates and either the Ripley Greenway or Knox Bridge.

It was nice to travel on some familiar (and some not so familiar) roads in a different direction. 44 miles, no rain and even some watery sunshine and lots of snowdrops appearing - can Spring be far away? Peter L



Fast Medium Plus Ride

Eight riders set off today in the faster portion of the medium plus group. Navigation was handled at a group level, with much of the ride led off by Andy and Bob, with a brief consult of a map required somewhere near Grantley. The much more demanding task was to find an appropriate cafe stop, with Ripon deemed too early as we rolled through the town at 1040, having sustained a brisk pace since Hornbeam. The solution was to carry on over Dallow Moor and down the steep descent into Pateley Bridge and cake at Teacups Cafe. Our return route was via Glasshouses, Brimham, Burnt Yates, Hampsthwaite and Knox Bridge, while one of the Marks (not Townend, but the Mark who has an aversion to using his inner chain ring and pushes eye-wateringly large gears...you know who you are...) set off home from Pateley by heading up Yorke's Folly (chapeau!). After 46 miles and 2500ish ft. covered at an average speed of 13mph we were back in Harrogate around 1.45pm. A good ride today! A bit tougher than expected (lots of grumbles about empty legs), but no pain, no gain...
Michael Inglis

Short Medium Plus Ride

Golly was it ccccold this morning; didn't even see any brass monkeys to check exactly how cold.

Anyway, off with a will along with the remaining hundreds who fancied the Med+. A great testament to our club, I'm sure.

By the time we reached Low Bridge, our leader Peter was directing us along Waterside with instructions to wait at the end. Peter had very kindly volunteered to stand in for yours truly, who has the onerous duty today to attend a mate's 60th birthday party in good old Huddersfield (somebody has to do it), and therefore needed to be home for an early bath. I might be "in drink" by the time you read this.

"Shame" do I hear?

Anyway, it was freezing standing waiting at the World's End, aptly named for mornings like this; so a few of us meandered off, expecting to be caught up sooner or later by at least some of the group.

Not to be.

Why does it always happen to me? (No answer expected, thank you).

Once again, as we were peacefully passing Piccadilly Garage, a pretty fast group of four went past, with a cheerful "Good morning".

Of course, you don't need me to relate any more of the tale. Within a couple of minutes, we were at it, Hell for leather, hanging onto their coat tails as best we could. It's that glance from one WE member to another that we recognise so well. It is unspoken, but means: "We're not having that, are we?"

Well, actually, no we weren't. So once again, off we went, direction Ripon, heads down, and the other bits up.

It was great sprint, with the only respite in sight when I dropped my water bottle, and looked up thinking we can have a bit of a rest now; but no; they had politely slowed down whilst we regrouped. So off again.

Luckily our new friends turned off for Littlethorpe and we went cafe hunting. Found a good one, new to me. The tearooms on the left half way down Duck Hill. Very pleasant and cyclist orientated. In fact the chef was asking if he could ride with WE on his day off.

A brisk ride back gave us a good 30M ride today, with the usual high enjoyment factor.

Thanks Marvin and Alistair for splendid company. Dave S



Long Ride

With no ride leader there was a great debate as to where we should go. But in the end it was decided to head for Ampleforth Abbey via the tried and tested route of Boroughbridge, Thornton Bridge and Hutton Sessay, Carlton Hustwaite and Coxwold. To add a bit of interest to the ride we decided to go up Wass Bank and then along the ridge Ampleforth. Seven set off from Hornbeam but John H retired early as he has still below par. Following excellent refreshments at the Abbey it was back to Harrogate via Yearsley, Easingwold and Aldwark Bridge, with a banana break at Great Ouseburn. PCJ



Sunday on Tenerife

Mount Teide up and down.

This Sunday ride started a little bit early to avoid the sweltering heat. Not much description but a rough gist of the ride.

8.30am Leave hotel on Cube full carbon racing bike.

11.30am Arrive Parador Hotel 2200m above sea level.

12.30pm Village of San Miguel.

1.00pm Arrive back at Hotel

2.00pm Swimming in hotel pool.

2.30pm Reading sat on sun lounger.

3.00pm Book sodden and laying in puddle, reader asleep. HAPPY DAYS.

110km 2,600m ascent.

