

Sunday, February 26, 2017

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 563

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### Short Ride

Once again an opportunity presented itself to follow in the wheel tracks of the Great El Butler. So despite the joys of Brimham Rocks in a force 10 storm, 10 knowing riders chose to follow their dream. We set off at a cracking pace to Knaresborough and round a route many of us had not cycled for a year or two. Wiggling round disused roads we ended up at Goldsborough and headed to the main York Road where in the middle of the road we were crossing, we witnessed badger carnage. Overcoming that, we sped on down a delightful country route in spring like conditions, to the back way into Arkengarthdale, Ferrensby and Sandy Bank by 11.27. There we decided we could not finish following the great man and insisted on either lunching chez Butler or more cycling to Ripley, here El Butler obviously realised he could make an escape, as we rushed for coffee in the cafe. Max too decided after so much cycling, he would pop home as well and make lunch for his lovely wife....or not. After a lot of chat and sprinkles of gossip we prepared for our return down the Green Way to Sunday lunches and other Sunday entertainment....England winning the Rugby/Rugger against Italy and Cav winning stage 4 of the tour of Abu Dhabi. We were however stopped in our tracks by the cry of puncture. Zoe and her two friends were already waving puncture mending equipment and sporting rubber glove and prodding at an over turned bike. The men stood back in amazement as the tyre was off and inner tube replaced with mere flick of a wrist. The tyre experts felt that the two very tactful men watching from a distance should be allowed to comment and assist. David S pumped up the tyre, and the other David prevented total bike collapse by mentioning the chain should just slip onto the circley gear spiky bits. Anyway we all managed to return home via the Green Way.....with memories of yet another ride lead by the master El Butler. An extended 26 miles and how pleased we were we had come out to play. CG





**Medium Ride**

A round dozen set off from Hornbeam, making me wonder how we were all going to get into a cafe. I needn't have worried. Paul B. left us at Little Almscliffe, to recce next week's ride (we leaders exist to serve), making us 11. Then we cut across the A59, and turned down Sheepcote Lane - terrific views, new for some - to Darley. Many of our near-600 metres of climbing came in a single chunk next, up Stripe Lane. Young Tom left us just before Brimham to get home for some domestic chores (10 gold stars, my daughters are available if your girlfriend doesn't make it back from her trip). Alison left just after, in search of more miles. So, nine enjoyed the free-wheel down to Ripley. The tea room was very busy, and just three decided to queue: I needn't have worried after all. The rest of us headed home down the Greenway, into a very stiff headwind, the first time it had really troubled us all day. Rather sadly, for me and I'm sure for many others, this was Andrew Hall's last regular Sunday ride. He's moving out of the area, though will be back for tours and occasional guest appearances. We will miss your companionship on rides, and remember the many occasions when you were an informal ride leader, guiding a 'steady medium plus' group. Au revoir et bonne chance (as we are still, just, allowed to say). Justin



### **Medium Plus Ride - Group 1**

Our real leader was feeling a little off colour this morning (hope it soon passes Dave), and I was unexpectedly promoted to the dizzy heights, which left me feeling just a bit vulnerable since I had not done my route homework.

Colin, Sarah and Helen couldn't be persuaded to join us, so we six blokes rode off slightly into the unknown.

We found Kirkby Malzeard, more by good luck than any navigational feat, only to meet up with Colin's group. You were supposed to be slower than us, but got there at the same time; hmmm...

We found the right road (which goes through the wonderfully English place named Warthermarske), and enjoyed the rapid descent past Swinton Park, fetching up at Johnny Baghdad's excellent eating spot, only to find.....yes you've guessed it....Colin and the girls just sitting down at the last couple of tables.

We managed to squeeze in and enjoyed the customary staple for lunch (photo), and informative conversation about the price of beer in Norway(!!).

Having confirmed the return route details, we set off into what turned into a pretty aggressive headwind. Colin's group was encountered again, before we took a democratic decision to miss out Wath and struggle back directly through Ripon.

The little footbridge over the Skell was new to some, but I think we all knew about Markington Hill, which did not disappoint today.

A splendid approach to Harrogate up the Greenway. What a great route that is after a fairly hard day. Thanks to all involved in getting it organised.

Thanks also to Alastair, Bianchi Bob, Justin, Dave W, Rob (Moody) for another splendid day out; I would not wish to be doing anything else. Dave S.





### **Medium Plus Ride - Group 2**

With no Medium Plus leaders due to unforeseen circumstances (hope Dave P is ok) we managed to eventually organise ourselves and a group of eight of us set off on the official route through Ripley to Fountains, where Martin, John R and Paul went for an early coffee and to head off home. Monica, Debbie, Tim, Mike and I continued on through Grantley in an increasingly strengthening breeze, through Laverton and into Kirby Malzeard. Having indicated I wanted to be back to see the England v. Italy rugby we decided to patronise the Mech Big Breakfast as advertised in a recent email from Malcolm, where we were warmly welcomed with tea and coffee followed by the full English (see photo!). The intention was to raise funds to carry out refurbishment to the entrance and bar area and our attendance was clearly appreciated and judging by the numbers, they will have made a good start. Well worth a visit if they run it again. From there we returned via Ripon and then into a strong head wind through Bishop Monkton into Knaresborough, where I abandoned and the remaining four headed up Knaresborough hill and home. A good winters ride covering just over 40 miles with a fair bit of climbing and

a somewhat unusual, but very enjoyable, coffee stop. Thanks to all for your company.  
James G.





### **Medium Plus Ride – Faster Group**

An assortment of cyclists gathered at a windy Hornbeam Park waiting for the ride announcer and the fast group was formed of Steve, Trefor, David, Darcy, Tony and Wing Commander Mark T, Dave Siswick lead the other medium plus group. So off we went heading for the hills via Skipton road giving the Greenway a miss. (As some of us wanted to get back for some rugby match!!).

At Killinghall we lost one of our group David informed by Peter in the following group that he was going to join the other Med group so onwards with the wind at our backs we passed Fountains Abbey, several comments were made that the ride back would be fun into the

wind, the pace was that quick or was it just mild I had to stop and remove my hat after the cheeky hill into Winksley Further on somewhere round K Malzard we had a couple of radar issues or just not paying attention to all things "direction" and found ourselves in Grewelthorpe after a series of wrong turns, so with a revised route in mind we headed for Masham's Johnny Baghdad cafe to partake of refreshment and a very generous helping of Beans on toast, top coffee to.....apparently Steak and **Snail** pie was their "Dish of the Day today was there any takers? I thought the spicy chickpea balls looked good myself!

Afterwards we set off, refuelled up Swinton Bank to make amends which as we hit the wind...no not the beans, we all thought this was a great idea as the climb peaked into the gale by this time the official route was well and truly stuffed as we were back in Grewelthorpe again and heading to Ripon at a brisk pace you can really get up a charge on that piece of road and on through to Knaresborough and Harrogate. A great day and a fun ride.

I must add that Mark despite our direction issues put in some fine arm out turning signals, very professional! Oh and yes we forgot to take any photo evidence of this sterling adventure.

NO mamils were harmed in anyway in this Production!! Tony P

### **Long Ride**

With no ride leader the Long Riders, five in number, decided to become a sub-section of the Medium Plus ride. We followed the medium plus route with the following exceptions:

1. We did not go along the Geenway leaving Harrogate.
2. We avoided Laverton.
3. After Masham we did not go West Tanfield.
4. Littlethorpe was avoided due to the gusty winds.
5. We returned to Harrogate via Knaresborough rather than Ripley and the Greenway.

A good ride despite the blustery conditions. PCJ

