

Sunday, March 19, 2017

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 566

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### Short Ride

The planned fifteen mile route was to cycle along the Lanes around Kirkby Overblow. However, Gia suggested a more sheltered route along the Greenway to Sophie's and then return via Killinghall and Knox and the group of nine were more than happy to go along with the amended route. We were joined by new member Charlotte who will be trying out a faster and increased miles group next week. The wind was certainly strong in places and one minute we had sunshine, the next rain. As usual the company and Sophie's didn't disappoint with Debbie trying her first three shot flat white. It was great to be joined by Dave P who with his vast cycling experience was able to advise a few of us on how we can improve our cycling. Thanks everyone for a lovely short ride. Paul T.





### **Medium Ride**

The forecast looked ominous with strong and strengthening winds and heavy rain, but nine hardly people turned up for the ride. On such a windy day it seemed wise not to go up to Brimham. Instead, we decided to take the first part of the route and to shorten it if conditions worsened.

We got to Ripley and pressed on to the Drovers' Crossroads where we decided that we'd go to Fountains Abbey Visitor Centre instead of Sawley and Risplith. The rain started and the wind gusted but as we got to the Visitor Centre, the clouds parted and we were rewarded with sunshine and rainbows for the remainder of the ride.

We took the usual route back through the Deer Park, Ripon, Littlethorpe and Knaresborough. 32 miles. Al D





### **Medium-plus Ride**

On a blustery day Audax Alan led out a small but perfectly formed group on his brand new "sparkling" Dolan. Being unable to go over a closed Low Bridge we headed down over high bridge and on the road out to Farnham, clearly wind was going to be the big factor of the day as we sped down to Arkendale with it on our backs. We were waved straight over Aldwark bridge no hanging around there. At Alne we tried to get in front of Alan by cutting down Monk Green but he was having non of it,...perhaps the force is strong in this earthling Obi-one or was it the lure of the Curious table's excellent coffee. We flew down to Alne bridge almost as the Virgin's Edinburgh bound flyer passed through.

After top coffee and a good feed in Easingwold we all headed out to a sunny Husthwaite village where the well known stained glass artist William Peckitt was born, we passed along interestingly named The Nookin...whatever that means!. After all the excitement of the Nookin we headed out to Carlton Husthwaite via Elphin Bridge Lane where we encountered several of the Thirsk Trotters "killing it" or at least trying to but battling gamely with the wind. Once past the A19 and the wonderfully named Horsebreakers Arms, we were on the last leg towards Thornton Bridge and it's missing rails the wind by now beginning to take it's prisoners the normally quick section through Milby was proving rather slow (at least it wasn't raining) after a quick stop for scooby snacks in Boroughbridge we paced ourselves to Staveley and up past Occaney Farm. At one way Sandy lane I parted with the others as they made their way back to Knaresborough and Harrogate.

A good days ride with good company sadly without Declan. Tony P.



### **Long Ride**

Reluctantly I dragged myself to Ripley hoping nobody would turn up for the planned long ride to Bishopdale and Wharfedale. At two minutes to nine, a lone figure appeared from the direction of Harrogate – Martin D. We agreed to modify the route and at 9:05 headed for “Oh No! Not Masham again!” After all it’s the only place you can do a circular ride with almost no East or West components.

In the end the weather turned out to be OK. We never needed to put on rain jackets, had lots of blue sky and an almost permanent rainbow, which I like to think was our reward for venturing out. We successfully avoided punctures, potholes and politics so all in all a great day out.

