

Sunday, May 28, 2017

Wheel Easy Ride Report 576

Short Ride

Welcome to Helen who has done some very adventurous rides but wanted to sample the delights of Wheel Easy. We were also joined by Jill, usually a Medium Rider – could this be due to a recent birthday whereby life is alleged to begin? Twelve of us left Hornbeam via the Showground and a pretty slick pace to Follifoot and Spofforth. Everyone very kindly agreed to pose and pout amongst the foliage of the Millennium Gardens at Spofforth – a find attributed to Eric years ago. Dennis very willingly posed in between Sue T and Jane on the bench – a rather nifty move some would say!! We then hurtled on through Little Ribston to the roundabout on the A59. Caroline G (aka Bride's Mother) left us to return to the bosom of her family to supervise pre-nuptial goodies. Dennis, too, departed for lunch with Dorothy and the rest of us repaired to the sunlit balcony of the Watermill Cafe. The very slow service allowed for sunbathing before decisions were made concerning adding an extra 10 miles by returning through Scriven, Nidd and Ripley. Dave, Helen, Neil and Caroline opted for the extension while the remaining five took the Abbey Road, Bogs Lane route to Hornbeam. This was a lovely, sun filled ride with a little educational input from geography Caroline G who explained the difference between wheat and barley as crops blew in the breeze - barley has a beard. B and B takes on a different meaning!

Thank you for superb company. Sue D











Medium Ride

It seemed like everyone was going in the same direction today. We had to barge our way past the short ride on our way to the showground then we were held up while a contra-pivotal medium-plus paused for a mugshot in Follifoot. There we picked up our 12th rider and continued our figure-of-eight adventure to Spofforth, Little Ribston, then round the back of Wetherby where, somehow, we managed to lose three, including our back marker, Charlie. Thanks to the blessings of modern telecommunications, we were able to fully reassemble just beyond the D** S*** underpass.

As is sometimes the case with rides, a leader may know the way out and the way back but not necessarily the middle bit. So it was that Al helped get us to Boston Spa and then on to Bramham (notwithstanding the actual leader treating us all to a cul-de-sac).

Everyone stayed for the café stop and, amazingly, we were all accommodated on two outside tables at The Gourmet in the Shambles back in Wetherby. We rode back via Sicklinghall and Kirby Overblow and the leader abandoned his charges in Burn Bridge. The Overtaking Monitor reported that along all leafy lanes, down every rolling road and up each sleepy side street we were able to maintain overtaking gaps at all times. And pigs flew.

About 33 miles on a beautiful day. Over and out! Paul B



Medium Plus - Gia's Ride

The forecast, wind direction and lunch stop suggested to me that today's ride would benefit by going the other way round. It proved to be a great success. Wind behind us on the way to York and not much of it against us coming back.

Malcolm called ahead to Cycle Heaven to warn them of a large number of us turning up and they did a great job of serving us and with excellent food. Their cake/tray bake slices are real cyclist size portions.

Our group of eight went through the show ground to Follifoot where we met Nicky who joined the girls for a Dave Preston fan club photo. She then joined Paul Blackham's group who were setting out along the same route.

We made good time to Long Marston and to the cycle path around the race course. A first for Justin from Follifoot who had not done this part of the route before.

As we arrived at Cycle Heaven a club sneaked in before us but as our fast boys were about ready to leave all was well.

Leaving the cafe to join the cycle path through York to Beningbrough I mistakenly rode alongside the side of the river that got us snarled up in York, but it was entertaining to see the crowds in the city centre and Dave expertly led us to the Judi Dench Walk where we rejoined our route.

At Beningbrough we were hailed by Malcolm who had decided to ride to York on the good old Spa bike stopping for lunch at the Farm Shop. His intention was to cycle on in to York and get the train back not knowing that there was no train, but there was a bus replacement service. All was well as the coach accommodated him and his bike (in the boot!) and he was home in time for tea and 33 miles pedalled.

We enjoyed the ride back from York, sunny and pleasant and because Starbuck crossing was closed we took the newly resurfaced Bilton Hall Drive back to Harrogate.

All in all a great day out and thanks to two Dave's, Justin, Janet, Sue, Angela and Debby. 59 miles. Gia



Medium Plus - Liz's Ride

A group of 6 decided to do the ride the "right" way round but we increased to 7 when we found Dave Siswick lurking in Great Ouseburn. With the wind behind us and a good amount of sunshine, we made record time over Aldwark Bridge and into Beningbrough for an early lunch. We were soon served and tucking in outside in the sunshine but if we had arrived a bit later it would have been a different story as loads of other cyclists soon appeared. I asked a cyclist to take the group photo and, on seeing Justin with his WE top, he told us that he had been out with WE once about 10 years ago. He was so impressed that he formed the Curlew Cycling club in Richmond on the same principals. We whizzed through

York and on through Askham Richard to have a shortstop at the Marston Moor memorial. Here a non-cycling gentleman volunteered to take our photo as we rested in the sunshine. An ice cream was needed for our 2nd stop but as we passed through York the ice cream sold in the vans did not meet our high standards! However Dave S lead us into the village shop in Tockwith and most of us came out with Magnums -just the thing to get us home. Dave left us soon after and for the rest the route was Little Ribston, Spofforth and Follifoot. 57 miles with great company, sunshine and scenery. Also a cheery wave from Paul B as I was stuck at the Rudding lights! Liz Pugh



Medium Plus - "Quicker Bunch" Ride

So on a warm early summer's day of we set little did we know that it would be an interesting day as we headed out of Harrogate towards Low Bridge Farnham and down to Ferrensbury crossroads passing the motorway and heading right down Braimber lane, one or two of us had gravel in the road issues turning into the road down to Great Ouseburn. After a brief stop at Aldwark bridge we were soon waved through and right, onto the unnamed road down to Linton on Ouse although any riders looking for speed records were disappointed as we turned into a wind. After passing through Beningbrough Park we reached the N.T. Georgian pile built in 1716 with its baroque interiors and cantilevered stairs...a big hit on Tripadvisor! York was now beckoning as we reached the Sustrans path and passed over the mini forth road bridge we were greeted with fields full of buttercups and at times a rather overgrown path in places but after carrying bikes over the railway bridge we could smell the coffee at Cycle Heaven just beating York Rouleurs the place was filling up rapidly. Afterwards Steve decided to fix his puncture with some input from the shop whilst leaving the rest of us to watch over his upside down Specialised bike while we waited one of us came up with a rather interesting story of his escapades as a boy going into the local railway station and letting down commuters bikes tyres ...stuff like that has an interesting way of rebounding back on one, Karma I believe!, anyway on the return journey home after passing the race course not only did the god of punctures strike once for his past actions but twice and it's always the back tyre anyway at least it wasn't raining!!...we nicknamed you the valve man. After all this excitement Paul cranked up the pace and we were soon in Long Marston with half the group missing so more waiting anyway after a final regroup we reached Knaresborough road minus Mike who sadly we never saw again - sorry mate we sent out a search party without success. Homeward bound now led by a revitalised Mark we all arrived back in town at our own speeds a fun day out covering 57 miles....thanks to Gia for the lovely photo. Tony P



Long Ride

With no volunteer for today's ride, Jill stepped in with a proposal for a journey into Littondale - always a delightful ride. Five riders joined Jill, with Nick and Phil joining the peloton on Penny Pot Lane. Although into a head wind for the outward journey, good progress was made. The Eco Cafe in Grassington was our first stop and can be recommended for future visits - although the beans in a 'gravy boat' at the side of toast may not pass the Dave

Siswick test! The warm rays of the sun were upon us as we ventured up Littondale and once again the views were wonderful. With the wind at our backs we sped down the valley back into Wharfedale where we took our second stop at Bolton Abbey Tea Rooms. Andy and Jackie left us shortly afterwards to return home via the A59, whilst Phil and John decided that they had not had enough hills and diverted at Beamsley to take on Langbar! Peter left the remaining four at Askwith, with Phil and John, looking remarkably well after their journey 'off piste', rejoining the 'main' group as they headed towards Otley, where Glyn left to return home to Leeds. Many thanks to Jill for leading and to everybody for making it a grand day out. Glyn F





Wheel Easy Abroad
Brittany not Myton-on-Swale

Greetings from Joe and Geraldine in Brittany. We couldn't believe it when we found a British phone box with a library just like in Myton where we lead the Medium ride a couple of weeks ago!

Geraldine and Joe

