

Sunday, June 4, 2017

Wheel Easy Ride Report 577

Medium Plus Ride (Peter's Group)

Yet again Medium+ was the most popular ride length with the large group splitting into three groups (at least). My group of eight wiggled our way out of Harrogate across the Stray and along Duchy Road where a stupid van driver attempted a ridiculous pass and almost came a cropper on a traffic island. Apparently it was a Police Forensics van - presumably he was trying to drum up business.

Continuing via the Army Camp and across the A59 to Hampsthwaite we headed up towards Clapham Green and were passed by another Med+ group who had gone via Beckwithshaw. At Clapham Green we avoided Birstwith and headed to Menwith Hill, turned right and descended at speed to Darley and Dacre. From Dacre we turned left towards Heyshaw and a lot of climbing took us to Yorke's Folly and a descent to Pateley Bridge where we encountered the other Med+ group before they exited for a longer spin via Wath (they said). Despite the confusion over the Flapjack varieties on sale, everyone re-fuelled while enjoying the sun and departed as the third Med+ group were arriving led by Malcolm on his impressive e-bike. I had to tear Mike away from making Malcolm an offer and we headed back to Glasshouses and a lot of climbing up and straight across the Pateley Road towards Fellbeck. Turning right on the Pateley-Ripon road we descended to Fellbeck and then the last significant uphill was to the Brimham turning and then essentially a series of downhills to Ripley. Democracy then cut in as we agreed to patronise the Ripley Ice Cream emporium - and very nice it was too. then it was back along the Ripley Greenway to Harrogate. 35 miles - a significant portion of it strenuous and often against a stiff breeze, but generally lovely weather, lovely countryside and a lovely group to lead. Special mention must go to Michael who, on his 5th outing with WE, undertook and conquered a very hilly ride. Well done

Peter L









Medium Plus Ride (Quicker Group)

Not been out this way for a while so six of us were off, after the brief excitement of Darcy's new bike a slick Bumble bee yellow Ribble with Ultegra very nice sir....quickly out of Hornbeam Pk past the lofty heights of Pannal ash and out past the Squinting Cat after a brief chain issue we turned right at Beckwithshaw and down pot bank's sweeping tight curves up to Pennypot crossing an unusually quiet Skipton road we freewheeled down into Hampswaite catching up with peter's group at the foot of Elton bank hill forgotten how steep that was as we pushed to the top and down to the valley bottom and on tracing the line of the river Nidd past Ross toll bridge we reached Darley and passing the houses which have a wonderful view of the dale the quick pace was set by Mark as we reached the Wellington Inn junction turning right past the now sadly closed down Darley mills an old 18th century corn mill till the 1960s. Serious hill climbing began now up Mill Hurst towards Dacre top village and hanging left into dacre lane climbing and climbing into Dike lane past dike farm and dike house...there's a pattern forming here. Now breaking out into great view's of the vale of york and the even all the power stations (eat your heart out trump) strung out on the far Horizon, here we stopped to take it all in before we swept down Yorks Folly and in Teacups. where we were joined outside by a friendly and hungry Robin redbreast as sat and eat doing it's humming bird at the table's edge,impressive. After this we got carried away and put an extra bit and rode out to the Sportsman's Inn and up the stEEP wath lane with it's narlee storm drains all looking for that extra gear that wasn't there! after this we got even further carried away and set of for Galphay....great downhills and Winksley and eventually to Ripon and home via Bishop Monkton, Occaney farm and Knaresborough,a grand day out gromit lots of hills and tired legs but it was worth it. Tony P.

Medium Plus Slower Ride

14 riders including Gia's nephews in training for the London 100 set off on a slightly different route to the one advertised. Along the Greenway and then down to Birstwith. Very pleasant route to Darley and Dacre and one which is less often ridden. Now the hills began upwards and onwards to the top of Yorke's Folly affording superb views across Nidderdale in beautiful sunshine. Paul Tindle returned home at this point and the rest of us whizzed down the hill to Pateley Bridge and our Tea Cups stop. Justin commented that we had achieved the minimum requirement in riding down Yorke's Folly - we had all come down alive! A very pleasant cafe stop in the sunshine taking on vital calories for the arduous climb ahead. Off up to Glasshouses and then to some very long and steep climbs up to Brimham. We decided to change the homeward route to go via Wilsall which gave us a fabulous swoop down to the Drovers and then Ripley. The male voice choir had come out to welcome us in the square in Ripley so we watched with interest for a while. Team Margolis and others left just four of us to ice cream and more serenading from the choir. Home via the Greenway and a

pleasant rather lumpy 37 miles concluded . Thanks to all for helpful to lead this ride and to Gia for route suggestions . Sue Couture





Martin's Medium Ride

The Famous Five Beat the Headwind. David Preston and Martin W jointly lead a group of five who were opting for a more stately paced ride today. After initially mixing it with the Short Ride we untangled ourselves by the time we reached Kirkby Overblow and we set off along the superbly scenic ridge ride to Sicklinghall. It was Helen's first ride along the route so we paused to enjoy the breathtaking view over the Wharfe Valley while being regaled with tales of old Yorkshire, Car Trials, and Hillclimbs from the old lags (Dave P and Martin).

Then to Wetherby and as we had realised that the route passed through Wetherby twice then we saw no reason to delay morning coffee and enjoyed a break at Costa. Dave then took us along lots of devious back-routes to the cycle path past the Racecourse and we set off to Walton. We were puzzled about the "new Cyclepath" in the ride report until we came upon it. A great connection to the village of Walton, and we were soon through the village and heading north to Tockwith. From there we left the prescribed route and went to Cowthorpe, Little Ribston and over the hill to Spofforth. This is where the headwind got up some strength and the section to Spofforth was a true test of Yorkshire grit. At Spofforth we paused at the green for the Dave (the other one!) to pump up his tyre. And a couple from a house by the green popped out to offer us their bike stand and track pump. Although we had finished and didn't need the help it confirmed our faith in the fellowship of cycling, and then the kind lady took our photo. Back homewards to Follifoot and Harrogate with the sun shining brightly. 34 good miles.

Martin W.





Slow Medium Ride

Sadly no one had volunteered to lead the short ride or the slow medium ride today...so people wanting a gentle ride would be limited to leading themselves or making a stand with gentleman Beckingham. Feeling I would have enough on balancing on my bike and putting on the stabilizers, even though I fancied being lead by lovely Mr. Beckinham, leading a slow medium ride would be the best option.....despite having no idea where it was to go. Clearly there were several people who wanted gentle....and some who also wanted to be back for lunch. Thankfully El Butler was with us and had to be back for Butler Dynasty control by 12.30, so as we reached Wetherby via Kirby Overblow and Sicklinghall, El B. led Jane, Alan and Barbara who despite being young and fit, was thoroughly enjoying her electric bike but needed to return home to be plugged in. The rest of us avoided the lure of the coffee pots of Wetherby, and headed off down the bike path to the new Walton path. After that was anyone's guess.....where were we going. Well.....through Walton, passed Bickerton to Tockwith, then it started to look as if it was going to rain and the troops were getting restless and tactfully enquiring was there any coffee round here...well the answer is no..At a signpostless crossroads, when we asked some marshals who seemed to be marshalling a non-existent bike race if we could get to Wetherby they thought, after checking their g.p.ses that we possibly could. With Bridget at the helm we arrived at the Shambles coffee quarter in Wetherby.....where we found the other group just starting to tuck in to scrambled eggs, bacon sandwiches, and similar joys. After consuming 4 americanos, 1 earl grey, four enormous cappachinos, 5 plates of toasted teacakes, 1 bacon sandwich, 1 sausage sandwich, and a 3 course meal for little Caroline, we returned to Harrogate before midnight. Thank you all for a lovely ride and Neil for your kind discreet backmarking. 35 miles and a variety of fitbit results....CG

Another Medium Ride

A good gathering at Hornbeam on a fairly bright morning meant there were 14 takers for the medium ride so we split into two groups and I took the leading group and passed the slow med. group on Leadhall Lane, riding on through Burn Bridge and on to Kirkby Overblow where we paused for a while and picked up two riders. Our group was then up to 10 riders so we continued in groups of five to Wetherby (by which time we were up to 12 riders!) took the York Road and right (opposite Audsley Lane) and left into the A1 underpass and on to Walton, using the new cycleway. Turning left onto Rudgate Lane we cruised on over

the B1224, turning right skirting the airfield, left into Tockwith village and left again, taking care not to miss the turning for Cattle then left for Hunsingore, over the A1 and into Walshford. We paused for a while outside The Bridge Hotel for two riders to re-join the group then rode on using the old A1 cycleway (two riders departing for the short ride home through Little Ribston) and continued back to Wetherby for a coffee stop. This is where my cycle lock seized up, so I had to say goodbye to the group and walk to Audsley Lane where 'All Terrain Bikes' were able to remove the old lock with a hacksaw (without charge) and get me back on the road again (for a lonely ride home) using the Harland Way to Spofforth, Follifoot and Rudding Lane. This was my last Medium ride and I recall my first when half way through the ride my right pedal fell off! Great ride with good weather, about 36miles... back by 14.10. Peter B.

Long Ride

With Eric feeling unwell, Phil S led a group of eight on a slightly amended route to that published. It was mutually agreed that with early morning rain being forecast for Grassington, the route would be cycled anti-clockwise and Masham would be our first port of call for refreshments. A light shower just before entering Masham caught us out but was soon over and rain was not seen for the rest of the day. The route would then take us on to Middleham, Castle Bolton and Aysgarth. A fairly strong headwind was a downside to this change of route but the marvellous views were more than compensation. After passing through Aysgarth, a 'banana break' was deemed necessary to replenish our energy levels as the formidable Cote de Cray was next to be attempted. Riding uphill into a headwind was no easy task but all made it successfully to the summit and the benefits of speeding down the other side into Buckden was full compensation. Afternoon refreshments were taken in the delightful garden of the West Winds Tea Room. Well worth the visit and enjoyed by all. Then it was down the Wharfe valley with the sun on our backs and the wind helping us along. Passing quickly through Kettlewell, Coniston, Grassington, Hebden and Appletreewick our progress understandably slowed between Skyreholme and Stump Cross but even with legs tiring, something close to normal service was resumed along Duck Street and then into Hampsthwaite, where Andy, Peter, Phil, Nick and Jill left the group to make their various ways home. That left Dan, Phil and Glyn with the final climb of the day back to the starting point at the Army Training College and then home. A tough but most rewarding day in excellent company and sunny conditions. Approx 89 miles overall.

Glyn F

