

Sunday, June 11, 2017

Wheel Easy Ride Report 578

Short Ride

Unfortunately there were no takers for the short ride today. As we are looking after our grandson for five days the short ride was the only option for me, so I decided to follow the fifteen mile route along the lanes around Kirkby Overblow by myself. However, a phone call home suggesting the family joined me for coffee in Wetherby enabled me to do an extension to the ride. Paul T

Slow Medium Ride

Eleven riders today set off from Hornbeam, picking up Nicki at Beryl Burton in Knaresborough.

From Knaresborough along Waterside and Abbey Road A59 to Goldsborough and out again to the A59 turning left to Flaxby, Coneythorpe, Arkendale, Staveley, Farnham, Scotton, Brearton and Nidd to the A61 and down to Ripley for a cafe stop. From Ripley the Greenway back to Harrogate. Approximately 30 miles on quiet back roads at a nice gentle pace.

Sorry forgot to take a photo until the end and missed off Nicki, Caroline, Monica, Sue D, John and Judith. Thank you all for your company today. Jean B



Medium Ride

It was a blustery morning with a suggestion of rain at some point. The suggested ride was definitely hilly and included a new challenge- the Chevin. However 20 people were eager to try. Mike S and Angela had cycled in from their respective homes, planning to drop off home during the ride. So in three groups, thanks Bridget and Neil, we set off up Little Almscliffe with the wind full in our faces. However, once there and warmed up, things only got better! We enjoyed the lovely descent to Lindley bridge and puffed our way up the other side to Farnley School. Then it was the descent to Otley and planning time.

Mike had kindly offered coffee at his house, after the Chevin Climb. Eight opted to go straight back via Castley and Kirkby Overblow with Neil. The remaining 12 embarked on the Chevin challenge. In fact it was just a long, steepish climb, with cars buzzing past all the time. Mike then led us onwards and a little upwards to his home. After a garden tour, we retreated to the conservatory for drinks and biscuits. Then the surprise! Mike's wife, Eileen, appeared with a cake! It turned out our host was about to become a year older on Monday! Happy Birthday for tomorrow, Mike.

A blast on the tuba from Mike and then we were off again. Mike led us towards Arthington from where we headed for Castley and Kirby Overblow, saying bye to Angela on the way. At

Kirkby Overblow, we agreed to go our separate ways. Two headed off to Burnbridge while the rest of us headed for Rudding Park and the dreaded Showground hill. A lovely ride in friendly company with a special 'twist' thanks to Mike. Alison N





Medium Plus Ride

A splendid morning and a slightly more challenging Medium Plus ride brought members out in large numbers; and they were not to be disappointed. Three groups emerged, and off we all went down the Greenway.

Despite the slightly frightening prospect of a morning climbing, everyone cheerfully met the challenge, and with a bit of welcome wind assistance, Masham was made in good time. Not before a team substitution of Michael for Declan had been carried out, en route. Not a bad swop some wag at the back muttered.

Café accommodation was in scarce supply in Masham, and the fast lads just beat us to the last table at Johnny Baghdad's emporium, but we were able to sit outside across the Market Place, along with the motor cyclists, who had some interesting old machines.

It was a bit cold for my beans sitting outside and so we were soon on our way again. Declan had seen the error of his ways and rejoined our team.

This is a great route, which I had not done before, apart from my recce in the car earlier this week; everyone enjoyed it. Hills in the morning were followed by gentler terrain after lunch. Perfect.

A new shortcut through Ripon was demonstrated, although some of us achieved more miles here by not paying enough attention.

Rain tried to get us at Markington but the usual insurance policy was taken out; we stopped and donned rainwear. This soon brought out the Sun again.

Markington Hill was conquered by all and a gentle pace back to base saw members peeling off, some to the pub, some elsewhere.

Thanks to Mike, Michael, Dave W, Peter, (thanks for backmarking Peter), Steve, Nick, Justin, Charlie, and Declan. Dave S.



Having sent the fast boys off on their own Dave Siswick lead off the remainder to the Greenway with a view to spitting up in Ripley, but as it happened a natural division occurred on the way and so after a quick comfort break in Ripley a group of six of us, comprising Jill, Debbie, Dave P, Tim, Justin and myself headed off up Fountains Way into a somewhat stronger breeze than forecast.

Sawley Bank wasn't any easier, but we all made it and passing up the delights of G & T's headed upwards once again into High Grantley and onwards to Kirkby Malzeard and Grewelthorpe. Dave P then opted for the direct route to Masham whilst the rest of us went up yet again towards Ilton and then, at last, downwards (!) into Masham, where we met up again with Dave, hiding behind a large bacon sandwich (see photo).

By virtue of good timing we also met up with Dave S's group who kindly departed just at the right time for us to claim their table. Although now on the cool side and with slightly slower service than usual, we stuck to the outside table and then suitable refreshed headed off for

the return journey. Having developed a mysterious rattle on his trust steed, Dave P headed straight home by the most direct(main road) route whilst the remainder circled round Thornton Watlass, Snape, Carthorpe, Wath and into Ripon for a cuppa at Spa Gardens. Although a passing shower encouraged us to don jackets by now the sun had reappeared and we enjoyed tea and cakes outside to the accompaniment music from the band stand. A democratic decision was taken to head home through Knaresborough and although a shower threatened enough to again put jackets on it never actually developed and we arrived home relatively dry. 60+ miles on a very enjoyable route which proved to be not too troublesome in the strong breeze. Thanks to my fellow riders for their excellent company and bearing with me on the hills. James G







Long Ride

Despite the strong south-westerly we reached the first designated café stop at Airton for 11.15, picking up Peter R en-route at Burnsall. Sitting outside enjoying the fine view of Malham proved too tempting and we decided to forego the pleasure of seven more uphill miles into a head wind and instead opted for a serene ride across one of the most beautiful stretches of limestone scenery in the country. Martin, struggling with a rear derailleur problem, opted for the left hand side of the cove while remaining three (Phil P, Peter R and Phil S) opted for the right hand side. Martin's report was that the left hand side was easier, quicker and had less traffic than more scenic right hand side.

We regrouped at the Tarn and sailed on towards Arncliffe. As we headed towards Grassington we could see rain ahead so decided a second stop was required at Kilnsey. The rain passed over as we enjoyed a cuppa and we returned to Harrogate via Stump Cross without getting wet. A lovely ride; thanks to those who could bear another trip into Wharfedale. Philip S



