

Sunday, August 20, 2017

Wheel Easy Ride Report 588

Short Ride

Five riders for the short ride today.

We took the route Hornbeam, St Georges, Leadhall Lane, Church Lane, Pannal, Follifoot Road, Higgs Lane, Spofforth, North Deighton, Little Ribston, Knaresborough, cafe stop at the Mill, Abbey Road, Calcutt, Forest Moor Lane, cycle path to Sainsburys and the showground back to Hornbeam. Around 18.5 miles.

Dennis left us at Knaresborough not for lunch today but he was off to the Lakes for a few days. The remaining four sat in the sun at the Mill with a lovely view of the Nidd. A very enjoyable ride. Thanks to all who rode along. Jean B



Medium Ride

A large-ish group of about 23 opted for the medium ride at Hornbeam. Too big for one group, so Dave Preston did the honours and offered to lead a second group. After the now-customary pep talk about riding in bunches of three or four, the first group of twelve set off through town and along the ASDA cycle path to the Greenway. Alison and Gordon were waiting for us at the Bilton Lane junction, although Alison had a broken rear spoke. Undaunted, she came along with us, but warned that she and Gordon might disappear from the radar at some point on the ride.

Through Ripley, briefly along the Pateley Bridge road and then right up Scarah Bank. Brief stop for photos at the pull-in before the Drovers crossroad, and up the hill to the start of Watergate Lane. Helen and Keith got some eggs, but Alison N, a frequent purchaser, was already 'egged up'.

Past the Gypsy encampment and then down and up to Fountains for refreshments (cyclists got a free coffee if they bought a bun or such-like). Dave P and his group turned up shortly after we arrived. Discussions about emeralds (look it up) took place, and various discussions around religion.

Helen, Keith and Alison N left us after coffee to do a few more miles around Sawley, and Alison and Gordon had already fallen off the radar by that stage. Lovely swoop down the Deer Park and into Ripon, short-cut through and along Barefoot Lane, where we encountered EG Norman on his way back from a ride on his Flying Scotsman.

On to Littlethorpe, Pottery Lane, Bishop Monkton, Burton Leonard and through the Mountgarret estate to Nidd and Ripley and back along the Greenway once more, with a brief stop to do some weeding (!) on the viaduct.

About 32 miles. Joe S





At Hornbeam Car Park Joe split the riders in to two groups, a faster group and a less fast group, however when the talent of the least fast group was recognised it was obvious that choral must be part of their group title.

Both groups left Hornbeam in good order, well spaced between the groups and also in the groups themselves whilst passing through central Harrogate. Down the Greenway to Ripley car park.

Then it was head for the hills to Ripon, the team comprised Caroline, Charlie, Dave M, Dave P, Graham, Helen, Maggie, Neil and Paul who back marked for us. As we headed for the hills in the sunshine the groups musical talent came out, and we were treated to excerpts from "The Sound of Music". The sopranos (no not them gangsters) were excellent, however we were missing a top tenor and a baritone.

Caffeine and calories were taken at Fountains Abbey visitor centre where we met up with Joe and Geraldine`s group. The area was very busy with many volunteers helping out with information, traffic flow, bike parking and other things, excellent, however they only had one out of two coffee machines functioning, no matter we all managed to get served.

Here we said goodbye to Paul who had to return home to do some estate management (that word estate was in today). Joe had suggested that we return via the Mountgarret Estate and the Greenway (nice call Joe).

The roads traffic was quite busy so it was down through Studley Park and avoiding the busy parts of Ripon itself to arrive at Littlethorpe. Then on to Bishop Monkton in the sun with choruses from the Sound of Music, on to Burton Leonard and the Mountgarret Estate, some disappointment for Charlie who could not see any houses.

At the ford bridge Dave M and Charlie played a blinder in lifting the bikes over the bridge stile. This kind act gave the soprano section chance to practice a few chords before we headed through the "estate" (still no houses Charlie) to Nidd and Ripley.

At the A61 junction the road was very busy with fast traffic, but the group filtered on to the road in groups of two, with two or three car lengths between them, no problems were caused and they then filtered off the roundabout into Ripley again with no problems, it was a pleasure to watch and I think the motorists were also impressed with it. Then on the Greenway to home.

An excellent ride (good call Joe), good company, lots of Laffs and excellent group riding skills. Hope to see your Deer photos Caroline
Many thanks Dave P.





Medium-plus Ride

With the sun shining eight slower paced medium plus riders set out from Hornbeam. With a following wind we looked set to break records as we were blown towards York. This was sabotaged when Steve got a puncture speedily sorted with the help of tweezers to remove the offending nail and a new inner. We were all back on the road for only seconds when the fates struck again; the spare inner also had a leak. Fortunately Steve had a second spare and we were soon moving again.

We arrived in Cycle Heaven as the fast group were finishing their lunch and bagged their table. Kevin was relieved to find a salad garnish on his scrambled eggs almost gave him his five a day while others enjoyed the less healthy option of Lumberjack Cake. A kind passer by agreed to take our picture on the Millennium Bridge though she declined Kevin's suggestion to go "back a bit" into the water. It was plain sailing coming back through Beningborough and Arkendale except for Monica's lost mirror (? shaken off crossing the toll bridge). Back through Knaresborough where surprisingly James declined to accompany us back to Hornbeam but a hardy few completed the 55 mile round. Charlie T



Medium Plus - Fast Ride

Eight riders formed the peloton departing from Hornbeam for a speedy ride to York. With the wind at our backs we made good progress towards York, with John H leaving us at Morton cum Grafton. The cycle path from Overton to the centre of York proved quite challenging given the number of pedestrians, dogs and cyclist that we encountered. We finally reached Cycle Heaven all in one piece. Cycle Heaven was full of other cyclists so we took to rearranging the tables outside and sat in the sun to partake of the refreshments. The return journey via Askam Richard and Long Marston was incident free. At North Deighton, the peloton split into two groups one heading for Knaresborough the other to Spofforth. PCJ



Long Ride

Seven set off for Malham into a stiffer than forecast westerly wind. We took a circuitous route to provide some variety, and shelter, before the inevitable grind in the wind up Duck Street.

Onwards to Grassington, where Cobblestones were for some reason unable to provide any hot food, so we decamped to the Eco cafe instead, where portion sizes were impressive.

Dave and Glyn decided to leave the group for a return at a more civilised hour, and the remaining five pushed on into the wind to Arncliffe and Malham. Malham Cove was thronged with walkers, even though it was unseasonably cool and cloudy. It was just as well our next stop was at Airton rather than Malham, as the latter was rammed and we would have had a long wait.

After Airton, we tried a new route via Eshton and Gargrave, which then required a short stint on the A65, which wasn't too bad especially with a tail wind.

We then turned back onto country lanes, but missed the intended Bog Lane and ended up almost into Skipton. At this point the ride leader was asked if he had read the Enid Blyton classic Five Get Lost in Airedale, which I thought was a tad harsh as it was the questioner who had sailed past Bog Lane.

We were soon back on course on Brackenley Lane to Embsay, then Bolton Abbey and the usual road to Askwith. After a brief stop for fuel, we faced up to the climb onto the moor and the return via Fewston and Little Almscliff. We felt a bit hard done by when we noted the stationary turbines at Penny Pot and limp flags at Beckwithshaw, but five pairs of tired legs finally made it home around 6.15 after 85 miles and around 6000 feet of climbing.

Richard L

