

Sunday, August 27, 2017

Wheel Easy Ride Report 589

Medium-slow Ride

No volunteers to lead this week for the short or medium slow rides.

I turned up at Hornbeam with a ride in mind that would accommodate both a short and medium ride.

Five people agreed to come with me and we set off on an old favourite to Sophies at Hampsthwaite via St George's, Little Almscliffe, Skipton Road, HMS Forest Moor, Menwith, Birstwith, Hampsthwaite, Hollins Lane, Knox Manor Lane to join the cycle path on Bilton Lane and return to Hornbeam. Around 25.5 miles.

Dennis and Gordon left us at Little Almscliffe having pressing matters to get back for. The remaining four of us had a leisurely ride in the sunshine and super views on the way. Not to mention Sophie's scones that were voted the best in the area. Jean B



Medium Ride

Four of us decided to do the ride to Tadcaster at a slower pace than the medium group. However we did cross the other group a few times. However upon arriving at Wetherby we decided to reverse the Tadcaster loop, so we set off down the cycle path to Walton, then on to Wighill. We whizzed through Tadcaster, then on towards Bramham, waving to the medium group as they whizzed down into Tadcaster.

After a wrong turn by the leader we were soon heading back to Wetherby, Monica and Paula along the cycle path, and Jill and myself along 'the smooth road'. We had a very enjoyable refreshment stop, then back onto the bikes to enjoy the sunshine back to Knaresborough. Unfortunately I had flat tyre at the top of Knaresborough hill, whereupon Monica had a cunning plan for me - catch the train from Starbeck to Hornbeam. But Sunday timetable meant I'd just missed a train, with a long wait for the next one, so it was a brisk walk back to the car. However it had been a lovely ride in glorious sunshine. 39 miles. Jen A



It was great having Dave to share leading the medium ride and as there were only thirteen riders we were able to set off in small groups. At Kirkby Overblow Paul and Nicky joined us and we continued onto Wetherby and Bramham. Mike had lived in the area and he pointed out alternative routes to follow in the future.

We stopped for refreshment at the Lemon Tree in Tadcaster, which provided excellent service. The best choice by the group looked to be Al's Spanish Omelette, followed by Paul's Vanilla Slice, which was so large it came with a knife and fork. While in the cafe three

members of Wheel Easy doing their own ride rode past at a terrific speed, we thought they must be in training for something!

On the return journey we all rode to Wetherby where Peter, Paul and Nicky left us to return along the Harland and Al and Mick left us at Little Ribston. Mike, Julie and myself continued home via Spofforth, Follifoot and Rudding Park. It was a lovely 38 mile ride in good company. Thanks everyone! Paul T



Having split the Medium riders roughly down the middle, seven of us (including new member Andy) set off in glorious sunshine in search of Tadcaster. Following a modified route (due to the bridge in Linton being out of action) we were soon zipping up Walton Head Lane climb for the first of many undulations on a largely flat route. There was some breathtaking scenery to take in as well as the sights and sounds of Harewood Hillclimb in the distance. After safely navigating the Wetherby bridge (on foot) we joined the cycle track headed for Bramham and made our way through the Leeds Festival traffic to some quieter routes by way of the odd mechanical stop.

On arriving in Tadcaster we agreed upon the Lemon Tree for a cafe stop and it proved an ideal choice. Not only for the warm welcome, excellent food and drink, but also the offer of the use of locks for those that needed one. As a bonus we were able to backtrack briefly and allow Caroline to indulge her passion for photographing architecture at the brewery. (Apologies for my poor effort).

Out of Tadcaster and through the Thorp Arch Retail Park took us to the Wetherby Railway cycle path which, in the dappled sunshine, was a delight.

After a slight detour we conquered the climbs on the route back from Spofforth and through the showground and went our separate ways to enjoy the rest of the pre-Bank Holiday weather.

Thanks to all on the ride and to Paul Tindle for help and advice. Dave M



Medium-plus Ride

Seven riders set off today for a relatively hilly, but short ride heading over to Dallow Moor. Dave left us quite early with a bad back, hope you feel ok soon, not a great thing to have! The long climb up Brimham Rocks road was taken at a nice pace with our small peleton nicely bunched together. All was going fine until we approached the main entrance to Brimham Rocks.....The road was impassable, as a large tractor was coming one way, a bus, the other. Both well on the grass verge. A few "pleasantries" we're exchanged between the drivers before the bus reversed and allowed us to continue on our way. Fantastic views of the purple heather on the moor were almost too much for our ride leader as he (me) missed the right turn.

A nice decent towards Fountains followed and after brief discussion, the coffee stop was decided on, Ripon Spa the destination. By now a lovely warm day was in order, and the discussion over various cakes and scones was the merits of the various cycling clubs in Harrogate, none of which of course cont close to ours!

A slight deviation to the route home sent us through Markington, where Martin left us, so a few more feet of climbing were added. By now it was quite warm although a nice breeze made it perfect cycling weather.

Many thanks to all, a really enjoyable ride, back him before 1.30, so still in the good books. 45miles, 3100 feet of climbing. Mark T

A beautiful day for a ride over the hills and moors. Thanks to Monica for taking a group on this popular ride. Twelve of us set out for Brimham via The Greenway and Burnt Yates. Martin left us at Brimham with three others to ride a slightly shorter route home via a cafe I'm sure. Short sleeve order for a change and a following wind to take us up to Dallowgill where the heather was still stunning in it's pink glory. Down through Fountains where we broke the speed limit on the descent, furious but safe riding.

In Ripon the group split - the tea tribe to Spa Gardens, the coffee tribe to Oliver's Pantry. The tea tribe sat in the sun and discussed the merits of taking down historic statues, we decided best not to re-write history. Bianchi Bob's ideas for a brilliant new patent was dismissed much to his chagrin. Tea tribe home via Littlethorpe and Lingerfield and managed to bump into the coffee tribe in Knaresborough! All in all a really pleasant ride, good company as usual and plenty of people to put the leader right when she had lost the plot/route.

46 hilly miles . Sue C









Long Ride

Eight of us left Hornbeam Park, and our numbers quickly increased to ten as we were joined by Trefor, and by Mike S before we got as far as Hookstone Woods. Our outward journey took us via Boroughbridge, Thornton Bridge, Sessay and Carlton Husthwaite to Coxwold, where we had our first refreshment stop at the excellent tea rooms, sitting outside in the delightful gardens and even more delightful sunshine. The fastish pace meant that we arrived there before 11.30am, and Trefor decided to continue without stopping.

We paused for a photo as we passed Byland Abbey, then on through Ampleforth to Oswaldkirk, where the leader made a navigation error, which resulted in the ride omitting the loop which would have taken us via Nunnington, Slingsby, Coneysthorpe and Terrington. I offered to correct the error, but it seemed nobody was worried about the ride being shortened by nearly 10 miles, as this avoided the lumpy bits around Terrington! So with the leader's reputation not too tarnished, we continued via East Gilling, Brandsby, and Crayke to Easingwold, where we had our second café stop sitting outside the Sugar Mouse, enjoying the glorious sunshine once more.

Dave S pressed on without the tea stop, and Mike S left us at Great Ouseburn. As we arrived at Sandy Bank well ahead of schedule, the remaining seven all opted to add a few extra miles by diverting through Farnham, Scotton, Nidd to join the Nidderdale Greenway at Ripley. We arrived back before 4.30pm. I'd covered 74 miles door to door, 70 miles for those starting and finishing at Hornbeam Park. We'd averaged 15.4mph up to the start of the Greenway, where we reduced to a very genteel speed. Congratulations to Justin on completing his first long ride, and many thanks to Peter J for sterling efforts leading into the headwind on the homebound leg. Eric W

