

Sunday, September 24, 2017

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 593

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### Short Ride

Six riders set off on the ride led by Dennis today & I joined them at Low Bridge. We were taken on a lovely route on a glorious early Autumn day. We circled Knaresborough using the quiet lanes that featured throughout the ride, cycling on through Farnham to Arkendale where we turned left to White Cross and on to Stavely, Copgrove & then across the Mount Garrett Estate to Ripley. It was a sociable ride. We met Gordon Alison & Bridget at Arkendale en route to Askam Richards & Caroline & Jean on the Greenway returning from Fountains Abbey. Tea, Scones & healthy salads at Ripley Tearoom & then the last few miles home. A steady pace in good company (26 miles) Nicky Holden

### Medium Ride – Slow

Inclination said go with Denis and the short ride, my conscience in the form of Jean B said let's do a slow medium. So, having already decided that a trip to Hampsthwaite was not going to be part of today's itinerary, Jean and I set off on a slightly adapted slow medium ride. We met Liz and the real medium people, mingling with us on the greenway and were surprised when they headed off at Ripley to Clint Bank and Cut Throat Lane. We cut a corner or two, pedalling along Watergate Lane, passing the travellers (not p.c. to say gypsies apparently), arriving at Fountains Abbey Cafe, still breathing, in summer sunshine. Coffee ordered, we sat outside with a lady called Lorna that Jean found and heard all about her cycling exploits and a future adventure cycling down from north to south France....how exciting. Where, however, were the real medium group? They must have become carried away and popped up to Northallerton or somewhere as an extra loop. As we set off for home, we noticed the mediums tucking into scones, cakes, flap jacks and cappuccinos. We actually sped back UP? the hill passed the very static travellers park .... and it is very parklike now. We cut another few corners and quickly ended up at Ripley chatting to Diane W, who was out for a quick jaunt. As we set for home midst a positive peloton of balance bikes, we were suddenly enveloped by the El Butler short group. They had been gossiping at Ripley cafe. Well, what a lovely sociable ride in perfect company and conditions. 25miles, 70 floors and not nearly enough steps recorded. CG

### Medium Ride - Liz's

The weather was decidedly dull when we all gathered at Hornbeam but the sun soon appeared to cheer us all up. We were a group of 9 and we made a few changes to the ride route democratically, setting off up the Greenway and along Hollybank Lane to Clint. We continued straight over the Pateley road down to Shaw Mills and then up the notorious Cut Throat Lane, a well-used route in early WE days but rarely used in more recent times. There was a horse rider ahead of us who kept looking back expecting us to overtake - that didn't happen! The route continued up to and on to Watergate Lane, after which we were soon at Fountains Visitor centre enjoying our free hot drinks and various cakes and scones. The decision for the return route was down through the deer park where we stopped to gaze at a herd of deer quite close to the road. Continuing through Ripon and Littlethorpe to Burton Leonard where the leader was put in her place about the route into the Mountgarret estate! The gentlemen happily helped the ladies lift their bikes up - thank you - then we were soon in Ripley heading homeward. Surprisingly we did ride 36 miles and over 2000 ft. Liz Pugh





**Medium Plus Ride - Group 1**

There were four groups who set off on the Medium Plus ride to Pateley Bridge which by the end indicated that we had climbed over 1000 metres. James also concluded that this meant

that the large pieces of cake consumed at Tea Cups were well justified. Colin slightly adjusted our route which kept us off Duck Street and this made for an even more pleasant ride up to Heyshaw Moor. Jill had left us at this point and we wish her well for her Welsh tour later this week and to Dan who is riding C2C for the first time. Dan and Jeremy were keeping us up to date with the one-day cricket scores and we agreed that a Wheel Easy trip to a T20 game next season would get a few takers. After communing with all the other groups at Tea Cups we set off towards Wath and the inevitable walk up the steep hill, except for Jeremy who won the mountain jersey of the day. From the top we had great views of Nidderdale behind us and the setting up of the Pateley Show down below. Colin was there bird spotting and was glad that James was there to remind him to return to his new home in Knaresborough. It is definitely the moving season for Wheel Easy members. The run down to Fellbeck and then to Warsill were our rewards of the day. This is a great Wheel Easy ride and thank you to our group who made it a great start to the autumn ride. Gia





### **Medium Plus Ride - Group 2**

A good weather forecast attracted quite a few members for the Medium Plus ride this morning. I managed to persuade Julie to lead a fairly large group of faster riders out of

Hornbeam. Gia kindly helped out with splitting the remainder and so we were all soon on our way towards Little Almscliffe.

After going through the old Naval Station, the warmth of the sun and the inclines meant that a stop was required to discard some layers -especially with the knowledge of quite a bit of uphill to come before Yorkes Folly. The delightful lanes on our way up were new for a few in the group, including surprisingly Dave Siswick – a long standing and revered EG.

After a rapid descent by some towards Pateley, we were soon all enjoying good fayre of bacon butties and generous mugs of tea or coffee at Teacups. Lots of social chatter meant extra cups of tea and coffee being consumed – result a longer than usual queue for the one loo!

Then it was the long pull up at Wath on which everyone touched tarmac at some point. However, the views are always worth it and then there is the reward of the long easy descent to Fellbeck. A bit more climbing up to Brimham, another welcome descent to Ripley and then we were soon heading home on the Greenway.

It had been a lovely day out with usual good company, fine weather and lots of enthusiastic comments on the route. Finally, thanks to Justin for back marking - we made a good double act as ride leader and back marker were often both together at the rear! About 40 miles.

Monica



### **Medium Plus Ride - Group 3**

A fine autumnal day saw quite a large group set off for the hills led by Audax Bob with a split forming even before he left town passing and admiring Rossett High's fancy new gates the gap widened as the bulk of the group settled for a slightly slower pace through Beckwithshaw....the shaw bit in old English means a copse. Heading on we travelled up Norwood Road and Broad Dub Road the lead group kept on Meagill Lane passing the old naval station and headed up towards Greenhow road passing the wonderfully named My Love Ln. Turning right for Padside the sun was coming out now as we climbed towards

Naught Moor and the decent down the brake block wearing Yorke's Folly, no view today from the top as it was still shrouded in mist passing a lone climbing cyclist whose face said it all....\*\*!! We arrived at a busy Teacups as it's Pateley's show tomorrow both groups joined back up here minus a few early returners we hung around for a chat with Ribble Valley's cycle club who were on a grand tour of the dales...really putting in the miles. Until the early part of the 20th century the town had Scotgate Ash Quarry which when the railway arrived sent it hard wearing sandstone to build platforms and even harbour walls all over the British Isles

All present and correct we headed for the muched 'loved' storm drain hill with its lung squeezing 20% plus start having managed that we headed for the last leg down towards Fellbeck's Half Moon Inn following a classic car club's outing and back up to Brimham Rocks Lane and sweeping down towards fountain's road and on to Ripley and back home with a few opting for further refreshment at the Gardeners Arms,...a fun day had by all. Tony P  
P.S. Picture taken thanks to Gia.



### **Long Ride**

The Long Ride was led by Richard Pugh who initiated a prompt start from Hornbeam taking three other riders with him. After meandering through Harrogate town centre, a trip down Skipton Road and Bilton Lane we eventually joined the Greenway. Stopping at Ripley to admire some very old cars we picked up Phil S and headed for Masham. Being a Richard Pugh ride, this was not going to be straight forward. Leaving Ripley, we headed up Bedlam hill and then turned off to Shaw Mills and then onto Bishop Thornton. Now it was onwards to Sawley, Risplith, Grantley and Kirkby Malzard. Here, we took a circuitous route i.e. we turned right and then after some miles left to arrive at Grewelthorpe. In response to the item in the newsletter we tried out the café. PCJ bagged the only teacake much to Richard's disgust and he had to settle for beans on toast. On leaving Grewelthorpe we carried straight on at the end of the village up Nutwith Lane and headed towards Swinton via

Wathermarske. On reaching Swinton PCJ left the group to return to Harrogate via Masham, Snape, Wath and Ripon, the remaining members of the group were last seen heading towards Fearby and Lofthouse. PCJ

Having dropped down the hill to the castle for Peter to photo us and leave us we carried on along the castle wall, discussing the similar issues of Kex Gill NYCC proposals. The Ford bridge was necessary and then we acquired Dan at Fearby, then John and Stephen. Over to Lofthouse, busy with Scouts on their seven Dales hike, plus many other cyclists and a fast ride to Teacups and 3 groups home thereafter, two along the valley, and one on Peat Lane, but none for Yorkes Folly. Richard P





### **Alternative Long Ride Report**

Well, that was an odd one.... I was just announcing the long ride route and leader when there was a shout "He's already gone!" Turning around, they had indeed left for Masham; looks like it was now 9:32 and the ride leader had, for reasons unknown, taken unilateral action at 9:30, losing nearly half of the group before he'd left Hornbeam - this is one for the record book!! With no knowledge whatsoever of the planned, or unplanned, route to Masham, the now alternative long ride group (Dan, Steven and I) set off and arrived at Masham with no sign of the others. We had a good stop in the sunshine at Borders and then took the road towards Lofthouse, waiting at Healey to let Dan catch up after he had stopped to take a layer off. Then, surprise, surprise, the main group appeared behind us, pleasantries were exchanged and we followed on after our newfound friends. The road down to Lofthouse was busy and had gravel, but that was no problem and it was full gas down to Pateley and Tea Cups. After another carb fest at this excellent cafe, the alternative long ride group needed more climbing so we decided to head off up Peat Lane towards Greenhow, whilst we think the others took the valley route home. For us, it was down Duck Street into a head wind, which was irritating, but no problem. Then down Penny Pot and up Pot Bank. 62 miles and around 5000ft. John Hackett