

Sunday, April 29, 2018

Wheel Easy Ride Report 621

Short Ride

Only two takers for the short ride today. The other "poddlers" were practising for the Acorn Ride and had upgraded to the intermediate group. So off we set to the village hall at Fewston where we had an amazing choice of homemade cakes.

22 scenic miles, a slight headwind but no rain. Thanks to Alan for his company. Bridget M



Medium Ride Group 1

Seventeen riders opted for the medium ride. A massive thank you to Dave who volunteered to lead a group of 8. The route took us along the Greenway, up Scarah Bank, through Markington, Bishop Monkton and into Ripon. The group decided we would have coffee at Oliver's Pantry rather than at Fountains. After coffee we continued to Hampsthwaite via Bishop Thornton and Shaw Mills. At Hampsthwaite a few went into Sophie's and the remainder continued home. It was a lovely 34 mile ride in great company. Thank you everyone! Paul T



Medium Ride Group 2

There was a lot of takers for Paul T`s ride at Hornbeam Car Park. The weather being cold and perhaps wettish? Numbers being too big for one group Dave P `volunteered` to take a group on the condition that it would be on the slow side.

So, we had eight takers for the slow ride i.e. slow up hills and quick down t`other side thanks to gravity. They were Al, Andrea, Dan, two Daves, two Pauls, and a Peter.

Then it was down the Greenway to all meet at Ripley, Paul T`s faster group were away first, we leaving a good gap to allow for Sunday traffic before setting off.

Then a right off the B6165 up the hill, right where the Old Pub used to be, down to Markington, up a hill and down to cross the Ripon road to Bishop Monkton where one Paul left us to cook Sunday Dinner, then on to Littlethorpe to cross the A61 and in to Ripon, up more hills to Studley Park then up another hill to the cafe at Fountains Abbey Visitor Centre. Here Peter left us to return home for a Family Sunday. The rest of us craving caffeine and calories (well we had worked for them) entered the cafe.

On leaving the cafe the weather again seemed a bit "iffy", what us old uns used to call a "coco" day i.e. capes on, capes off, capes on, capes off etc. up some more hills and better still down some, much appreciated by Al and two Daves at this time gravity being a friend to them. In to Ripley then home via the Greenway.

For Dave P there were some new faces and many old faces (old in the nicest possible way) but all good company, many thanks. Dave P



Medium Plus Ride Group 1

With Justin kindly stepping into the vacant second leader spot, we split into a group of 5 & 6, I took the 5 and headed off from Hornbeam. Following the planned route up to Little Almscliffe & Menwith Hill, we were soon slogging up to Greenhow (why is it always a head wind?). After a well-received coffee break at Stump Cross caverns, it was a glorious swoop down to Skyreholme and on down the Wharfe valley to Bolton Abbey and Ilkley. By this stage the Leaders legs were feeling a bit wobbly so he opted for a "rear lead position" but this did not seem to faze the group at all!

Onwards through Otley, Pool, Weeton, Dunkeswick & Kirkby Overblow (with a somewhat hairy crossing of the A658!).

At this point we started to fragment to various locations in Harrogate. A great ride of 59miles and 3881ft (according to Strava). Steve S



Medium Plus Ride Group 2

Little Almscliffe - Menwith - Stump Cross (pit stop)- a heron standing incongruously in a field - Bolton Abbey - Cockpit Farm (cake) - Almscliffe Crag. Colin, Debbie, Liz P, Maris, Monica, Sue C, me. Really cold for the end of April, with wind from the north and east. But, one of those days when it was great to be out, and the cold was easily offset by one of the best routes on the Calendar. Around 55 miles in total, and 4000 feet of climbing (or 3/4 mile), according to Strava. Can that last figure be right? An excellent day out, many thanks to the collective of ride leaders. Justin K.



Medium Plus Ride Group 3

- Well, it started with rain at Hornbeam and it ended with rain at Hornbeam. In between, it was cold but what a good day's ride! 6 of the long ride group set off on the M+ Ride because our leader was indisposed and we thought it would be a nice ride. The highlights:
- Martin's front tyre with bulges on both sides at 2 different places, if you get my drift. They slowed him a little but he finished the ride ok.
 - Richard L's battle-worn rear rim which was well-worn after the Shropshire trip. I think we persuaded him to get a new wheel set.
 - Curlews warbling away at various places.
 - Nice bluebell displays in the woods on the way to Askwith, where we went up the hill though and not to the cafe.
 - The huge number of cyclists on the roads, probably in anticipation of the TdY next weekend.
 - The great and fast descents from Stump Cross and down Skyreholme. No camper vans coming up the hill this time!
 - A nice bacon and egg sandwich at Tea on the Green.
 - 53 miles and a fair bit of climb.

Hopefully summer will be here shortly!! John H

Medium Plus Ride Group 4

