

Sunday, May 20, 2018

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 624

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### Medium Ride

On a nice warm sunny morning 17 riders set off from Hornbeam on the medium ride then re-grouping at Low Bridge. Then on to Farnham, Arkendale, Great Ouseburn and over the Aldwark Bridge enjoying the sun and views and stopping at Aldwark church .....for a photo stop. We cycled on to Myton and the plaque for the site of the battle, a little bit of local history. At Helperby the café was open but it was decided to carry on to Boroughbridge for the stop. On the road to Milby a badger was on the road side, Mike was back marker and as he passed he noticed movement so he stopped and placed it in the hedge back. At Boroughbridge half the group cycled up and stopped at Plenty and others stopped at the Courtyard café. When we were ready we went back to the Courtyard to meet up for the return, Mike and another rider had decided to go back to check on the badger! A full report from him to follow, also service had been slow, so it was decided that we would carry on and the others would follow, maybe they had a second coffee! and also waited for Mike's return. Back though Staveley, Farnham and up Knaresborough Hill to Bogs Lane where we split up to go home different ways. A good sunny ride in good company, thanks to Allison and Mike for back marking. 40miles. Chris R.

On our way from Thornton Bridge into Boroughbridge the group came across an unconscious but living badger in the road. On a fast bend, it would fairly soon have been squashed. Corinne and Mike stayed back to deal with it. Obviously developing hyperthermia from lying in full sun, we first moved it on to the verge. As it showed no sign of regaining consciousness quickly, we then lifted it through a gap in the hedge and settled it in a comfortable position in the cornfield. Apart from cooling it with our remaining water, we could do no more and rode on to the cafe stop in Boroughbridge. The owners and other customers were most helpful and we were soon in touch with The Wildlife Haven in Thirsk, who immediately agreed to come out to collect it. Refreshed, Corinne and Mike rode back to make sure the Haven could find it. Within a few minutes two very competent ladies arrived, examined Miss Brock (a female cub) and took her back with them.

Miss Brock may or may not make it. We will make enquiries in a day or two to find out. But could I ask readers, riders, and especially leaders, to take a look at The Wildlife Haven's website and take note of their telephone number. They are a small, but obviously very professional charity. Inevitably we will come across injured and at risk wildlife occasionally.

We can't do much with a set of Allen keys and a few cable ties, but nor can we pass by on the other side. It helps to know who to call. And if anyone else feels able to offer them a small donation, I think it will be used wisely. Mike.



### **Medium Ride**

A hilly ride for a sunny day on the route known as Jill's Hills. A perfect route for those who are doing The Struggle Dales sportive next Sunday as we taper to maintain the lofty peak of fitness we have achieved in preparation (I wish!). Our group of 8 was quickly whittled down to 7 when Dave decided to head off on his own, although we crossed paths with him at least twice later on. Andy Akroyd left us at the foot of the descent from Langbar, as he intended to head home via Bolton Abbey and Grassington to get more climbing miles in (pre-Struggle Dales sportive training no doubt). Our remaining group decided not to stop in Ilkley, on the

assumption it would be mobbed. Instead, we rolled on to Cock Pitt Farm cafe, to find it mobbed. We joined a solo rider from Leeds who was just finishing his cuppa and basked in the sunshine consuming bacon butties and beans on toast, apart from Mark who went without (pre-Struggle Dales sportive training no doubt). On the way home we decided to head back via Norwood Edge and Little Almscliff instead of the planned Dunkeswick, etc. A good day out in glorious weather, with 46 miles and just over 3800ft climbing covered at an average of just over 14mph. Now let the tapering commence! Michael I.



### **Long Ride**

I'm easily pleased. Good company, erudite conversation, beautiful scenery, pretty villages, nature in her finest glory and wonderful weather are all I require. Oh! And did I mention good food, the finest display of hawthorn blossom I've ever seen, sunshine, lambs, more sunshine, brilliant yellow gorse, even more sunshine. The list goes on, not failing to mention the sunshine

None of the above is exclusive to cycling, but the bike must be the ideal way to feel part of it. Our ride to Hutton-le-Hole delivered it all, and more. We took a relaxed, laid back approach to our morning, stopping for coffee at Easingwold and tootling to H le H for lunch, where we were treated to an almost constant procession of classic cars. Terry, for whom the

early start was difficult, joined us as we finished our lunch but nobody minded spending a little longer for him to grab some much needed sustenance. The climb up to Gilamoor was, as always, well worth the view, and seemed to signal an immediate change in the ride. Now the morning torpor was well and truly shaken off, as the younger riders (Martin B, Dan and James M ) decided to up the pace. The enigma (Dave S) had "forgotten" to declare his age and joined the younger riders on a blast to Boroughbridge where the ride split up. Terry returned to his car, Martin and the enigma returned home and Dan decided he wanted to do 200k, instead of a paltry 100 miles, and set off for Wetherby and Norwood Edge! Richard L, Geoff and I managed to restrain James, and we enjoyed a leisurely return to Harrogate. Thanks to all –I'm already looking forward to doing the same next year. Phil



### **Short Ride**

Another fantastic cycling day made even more glorious by Gia giving best wishes to Caroline on her BIG birthday today. Almost 11 years have passed since Caroline, John Wood and I managed a very slow 5 miles on Wednesday afternoons and came back exhausted. From small beginnings, Plodders became Poddlers and all around, Wheel Easy 's membership and miles per ride increased in tens.

Twenty riders joined Dennis for one of his beautiful routes. Dennis gave a very well received talk on good/considerate road usage and set off with half the group magnificently backmarked by David S and Max nobly led Group 2 again magnificently backmarked by cycling royalty, King of the Road, Dave Preston. I was in Group 2 and missed two significant happenings affecting Dennis. Before, he had left the Hornbeam Cicle Path, Dennis collided with a loose and young spaniel. Neither was hurt but it was a serious reminder that, yet again, dogs off the leash can cause problems. Oblivious to all this, Group 2 cycled on via Beryl Burton Way to Knaresborough and thence to Arkendale where we reached the Bluebell where a comfort break was taken by some and the rest were amazed to see Dennis and his hardy band. They had come via Lingerfield. 'twas there we heard the story of Dennis and the Dog! Again , we separated and hurtled on through Staveley and Copgrove where we met Group 1 and co again. Dennis had sustained another potentially dangerous incident when a glass bottle, thrown by one car into the road, was run over by a following car causing the glass to shatter and narrowly missing Dennis. Typically, Dennis had dismounted to clear the glass to the side. So - Dennis and the Dog and Bottle, cheers and thank goodness, there were no injuries.

Undaunted and in true W E fashion, we sallied forth. I had the great honour of cycling with the KING who suddenly disappeared into the field/hedge just before the left turn before Burton Leonard which leads across Mountgarret lands. Being a lady of great discretion and tact, I kept my eye on the road ahead, turned left and then found out later that I was the

last one to see Dave! At the bench where the paths fork, Caroline produced birthday cake which was fallen upon with gusto - and water. Fortified, it was on to the ford where a human chain ensured the safe delivery of all mean machines. Jane managed eventually to find a small tussock from which to launch herself into the saddle (difficult when one is petite) and we headed off to Nidd. It was just over the railway bridge that Max rushed up to say Dave had not been there at cake time nor had he been seen since I last saw his departure. Goodness, what a horrifying position in which to find oneself - should I have waited? Well, not in the Book of Etiquette I was reared on). Perhaps I should have informed the backmarker - oops, that was Dave. In the event, and after much discussion about what could have befallen him in that ditch, Max sped ahead to look for him, those seeking coffee went on to Ripley and Caroline, Jane and I carried on towards our respective homes. All rested with Max to discover the whereabouts of the King. Bearing in mind that one, Somebody Ingleby, saved King Edward I from the jaws of a wild boar and was knighted, we were looking forward to a sword dropping moment when Max Graham becomes Sir Maxwell Graham for services rendered whilst leading a W E ride. In the event, Max raced home and rang Dave - he was enjoying a nice cup of tea at home. Phew - but, alas, no knighthood for Mr G.

Thank you for a superb route, Dennis, exceedingly good cake, Caroline and a mystery Agatha missed out on, Dave. Oh, and should anyone discover the existence of The Dog and Bottle, do let Dennis know. Sue D







**Medium Plus Ride**

Well what a lovely day for a hilly ride - 50 miles with 4278 feet of climbing. For Helen B and I this was our first foray into ride leading and fortunately everyone behaved themselves. We swooped down to BurnBridge and climbed up Brackenthwaite lane. Through North Rigton and up towards Almscliffe Cragg where some brave souls were climbing( proper climbing) up the rocks. Up and down we went in the glorious sunshine saying goodbye to Liz at Lindley as she had to get back early. That's a good climb out of Lindley reservoir so well done Liz. Safely negotiating Farnley Hill we cut through the housing estate and popped out opposite the hospital. Malcolm had driven with Paul and met us outside Otley. I still can't believe how we managed to get the timing of our arrival 'spot on'. We made our way past the Ironbridge and turned right up Carters Lane only to discover that the 'Back to the Beat' sportive was coming the other way.Up and up we went then up some more and finally tackled the very steep decent on the other side. Colin decided he was out for the day and head off towards Bolton Abbey with the rest of us cycling on towards Cockpit Farm. We had to give the girls a gentle nudge about taking our order on one of the tables but the food was lovely and plentiful.After crossing the A658 and A61 roads we met some cyclists doing the 'Fat Rascal' sportive. Their energy levels were low but Helen B conjured up a bag of jelly beans - lovely. Up to Kirby Overblow and down Walton Head Lane, onto the A61 for a bit then back up through BurnBridge. We said goodbye to Dennis at the Black Swan and then back to Hornbeam.

Thanks everyone for a great ride. Janet and Helen B





