

Sunday, June 24, 2018

Wheel Easy Ride Report 629

Wheel Easy Abroad

Pensioners ride up Mont Ventoux with panniers. Keith & Helen



Short Ride

With summer upon us there were bound to be lots of people wanting to cycle out today.....with the football upon us I did think there might be a few people wanting to be home speedily. So, with that in mind a few options of what could be done had been thought out

However, on arriving at Stainburn forest there was obvious rebellion in their midst...the path through the forest was too stony after being relayed and we should go another way. Lots of people thought option B would be best and yes, it probably was, so about 10 took the smooth gentle way (football fans and people wanting to recline in their gardens or be back for lunch or being a band groupie) ...no one took option A turn round and go home...seven people decided to trust me with option C and took the hilly stony path.

Now we certainly were rewarded for a minutes pushing to the already laid bit of track which was beautifully bedded in and rideable. Our reward was some stunning views over the valley towards Ilkley, Otley, Pool and Leeds and bit of uppy downy and no cafe stop. We passed Great Almscliffe, some people doing clever things playing with toy planes and some climbers. At North Rigton people needed their cafe stop but none were visible only a long up towards the superb swoop down to Burnbridge....and yes, a coffee stop at the virtually empty Black

Swan...sadly for some no toasted tea cakes or scones. Hey ho. Marian left us to go do family things.....and after a good bit of chatting the rest of us hauled ourselves back to Hornbeam and home. Thank you for waiting so patiently for me at the top of hills and for playing out so nicely. A hilly short ride of 22 miles. CG.



Medium Plus Ride

A strangely quiet day for Wheel Easy with longer rides having left earlier in the day and much of the population apparently huge football fans.

So nice quiet roads for us and on an exceptionally hot day a meander to Ripon taking in the wooden bridge over the River Skell and a great view of the cathedral.

We sat outside at Oliver's Pantry, new to our EG who joined us for the ride, somewhat perplexed that we did not visit Morrison's. Anyway, he had a great bacon sandwich which made up for that omission.

Malcolm arrived as we were leaving, not because he was late but due to a puncture at Starbeck which meant a change of plan.

The road through the deer park was deserted as were the roads generally and we had a good run back to Harrogate along an equally quiet Greenway. Here Mike announced that England were winning 5-0 so no need to worry.

Thanks to everyone for an enjoyable ride, James, Justin, Jeannie, Mike, Roy and Debby and Malcolm who caught up with me to enjoy an ice cream at Vanilli's on Cold Bath Road. Fab ice cream. 39 miles. Gia



Medium Plus Kex Gill ride

What with it being such a nice day, and Kex Gill being closed, I thought it was a good excuse for an unscheduled ride.

Little Almscliffe, Timble, Blubberhouses church, across the closed A59 taking the road by West End reservoir, where a left turn takes you to the top of Kex Gill.

Then a freewheel down the (almost) deserted main road to Bolton Abbey and the tea room. Back via Parceval Hall and Stump Cross, but we left Duck Street and came home through Nidderdale.

Good company, about 50 hilly miles, and back just after 4.....which was almost the target.
Colin



Long Ride

Ten years ago, with some trepidation, I joined my first wheel-easy ride (see pic); a ride to Howden led by Dave Preston. My caution was totally unnecessary as Dave is the perfect and most welcoming ride leader so, it was a great pleasure to find Dave at Knaresborough to accompany us as far as Easingwold. Here we had an early coffee as we had arranged to meet Julie Wilkins at the Curious Table. The ride, now perfectly balanced with 4 ladies and 4, dare I say, gentlemen, continued uneventfully; the normal guttural monosyllabic grunts of the usual crew, being replaced by polite refined conversation and, we even stopped to admire the poppies!

We enjoyed an excellent lunch in the Market Place at Malton Relish, being quite happy to sit indoors to escape the heat, continuing on our return journey finding new roads and new villages. Due to a detour, caused by a closed railway crossing and, aided by some confusion on my part we wound up back in Easingwold. Still, in the beautiful sunny weather, nobody seemed to mind too much. Thanks to Jill, Julie, Helen, Janet, Peter, Dave, Dave and Richard for all making it a great day out, most people will have covered about 85-90 miles on one of the best days of the year. Also, special thanks to Wheel-Easy Pleasure cycling for being the conduit to make such days possible. Phil

Phil`s Malton Meander - a part ride report.

I liked this early 9-00am kick off at Piccadilly Motors in Knaresborough, the destination was Easingwold via Aldwark Bridge.

Dave P was chuffed to be able maintain his Lantern Rouge position into Easingwold where he took his leave of the team as he did not think he could make Malton today but would make a shorter ride using routes used when he used to ride with York CTC.

After a leisurely cafe stop (very slow with toasted teacakes) DP headed for Crayke, Phil`s team could be seen in the distance, but this distance increased.

Our cycling friends in the North East often refer to the lumpy bits as "canny little hills" and there was a fair few of these on the specified route.

So, at Brandsby instead of climbing on to the Terrington Ridge the route was past Brandsby Hall on to Whenby and the Terrington Bank road then a right turn with a climb to Sheriff Hutton for a banana break.

Then east to New House Farm and Wheatclose, here was seen a seductive sign saying Malton 10 miles, but DP refrained from temptation and chose to turn right and head south and climb up to the old windmill, just as well because the beware Bulmer Bank notice came just after.

Then down the hill crossing the West Lilling to Flaxton road this was on an old CTC York Audax route of many years ago and went on to a non-metalled track, today it was in poor condition, in the past I would have been on my Dawes with "rough stuff" wheels and tyres, today it was a carbon road bike with lightweight quality wheels and solo, so it was head north west to get back on the Sheriff Hutton road, extra miles but flattish ones.

In to Strensall and out on Strensall New Bridge to Haxby and Wigginton and its village store cafe to take on lots of liquid.

The sun was now hot and the cafe metal table red hot, in fact two chocolate bars placed on it melted straight away, it seems a long time since I last saw a heat haze on the road and patches of melting tar.

On to Shipton and Beningborough, Linton on Ouse, Aldwark Bridge (again) with a liquid break at Branton Green and on to Knaresborough with another liquid break at Low Bridge before the climb to Harlow hill.

It had been brilliant cycling weather and while it is always nice to cycle in a group, I really enjoyed myself doing some old routes solo.

The force of gravity has increased (for me) over last few years but I arrived on Harlow Hill at 5-30 pm with over 74 miles in my wheels and chuffed to bits.

And last but not least a big thank you to Phil and the group for their help.

Dave P.





T'Big Un

In my experience of completing all WE Big One Rides (8 ? 10 ? 12 ?) this was by far the toughest. Not only is anti-clockwise a harder route with all the climbs coming in the final two thirds, but in that HEAT!! Nevertheless, well done to the 7 riders who endured my 'leadership' and had a splendid day out.

Right from the 8:00 start it was warm and the thermometer needle was only going one way. An elongated ride to Leyburn via Ripon, Well, Thornton Watlass and Harmby led us to the first climb over Bellerby Moor to Brunch at the Dales Cycle Centre near Reeth (it is expanding in the near future by the way). After Tuna or Ham paninis (no-one seemed to be able to tell), we rode the long, slow climb to Tan Hill into a slight headwind. The descent from Tan Hill to Thwaite was glorious - beautiful Swaledale barns in flower-rich meadows. After tea and cake, we ground up Buttertubs, by now really feeling the heat and effort. Eschewing the escape route down Wensleydale we all set off towards the mighty Fleet Moss. I can say that Vanessa and Andy probably cycled the whole thing but they were out of sight once the rest of us walked the final 200 yards or so. Darcy summed it up; "brutal". The reward was a lovely ride down Langstrothdale to Hubberholme and Buckden. For once, the shop was open and served tea, coffee, drinks, Eccles cakes and yet more unknown filling sandwiches - and every item seemed to cost £1 or £1.50.

The legs seemed to have recovered as we made good speed to Kettlewell where Andrew and Darcy had arranged a pickup due to pedal issues. Andy was keen for yet more hills so left us at Appletreewick to head off via Skyreholme - 'well it is the most direct route'. Vanessa, Steve, Terry and I sped down Wharfedale to Pool and home to Harrogate finishing by ascending Almsford Bank (Steve: 'that's not a hill').

125 miles by my Strava - probably the longest Big One ever - certainly tough but still a great ride. Peter L













