

Sunday, August 19, 2018

## **Wheel Easy Ride Report 637**

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### **Short Ride**

After a brief discussion amongst the female stalwarts of Wednesday Poddlers, it was decided that the Medium Ride might be a little much. Despite much kindly reassurance by leader Neil, thoughts turned to Boroughbridge and Caroline set a steady pace for a group of nine to take to the highways and byways of Low Bridge, Arkendale, and Marton.

Sue T proved a back marker superbe ensuring sensible gaps were created whilst keeping the flock together. Unfortunately, she had to return - rumour had it she was off buying President Butter. Scones for tea? Dennis, PB, and Peter B filtered off before the coffee find leaving a stoical David S to consume a very tasty looking sandwich in the company of five ladies - he coped very well!

The return via Roecliffe and then the Mountgarret Estate proved a fascinating highlight of the ride. As we descended the track toward the ford, a "carriage" pulled by four very sleek grey ponies came towards us going at a remarkably slick speed. Having negotiated the ford, we espied more carriages and ponies. This was an event whereby drivers, ponies and carriages take part in carefully timed lengths proving skills at negotiating a variety of differing conditions. All very exciting - so much so that, having negotiated our own course across loose stones etc, Jane and I set off leaving Caroline, Jen, David S and Monica to discuss the finer points of equestrian management. That was what we'd thought but their failure to appear after some considerable time caused us to wonder whether four bikes had been ditched in favour of a coach and four.

A call from Jen resolved the situation which had involved different rout etc but we all reconvened near Nidd. It was then upward and onward to the Greenway from whence Jane departed to the comfort of a bath. The remaining four took to the Greenway and were joined by Liz P and Sue C who had returned prematurely from a very wiindswept and difficult Duck Street. Then, lo and behold, Geraldine and Joe joined. It transpired that Geraldine's bike had emerged from the cellar ready for today's take-off but complete with puncture. After a delayed start, they had cycled via Scotton and enjoyed a cyclists' lunch at The Guy Fawkes - a starter, a pint and two straws. No-one carries vast amounts of cash in their saddle bags! Caroline and Monica were last seen discussing their route home at the ASDA end of the Greenway and Jen and I hurtled up Claro Road to our own destinations. Hopefully, Glyn had enjoyed a happy morning creating a mouthwatering pie for this afternoon's visitors. A very happy Sunday was had with 32 miles on the clock. Sue D





### **Medium Ride**

The Daily Express predicted that Storm Ernesto was going to inflict 45mph winds and dump a centimetre of rain on us today. Fortunately, that didn't happen. Odd that because you can normally rely on anything the Express says.

Anyway, twelve brave souls set off on what promised to be a scenic, gentle ride. We weren't disappointed. Scarah bank was about as tough a hill as we were going to get and it was easily negotiated with one member asking "Isn't there another bit?". Plain sailing from then on. Markington came and went. Safely across the A61 we were in Bishop Monkton before we knew it, our spirits rising as the weather improved. We were through Littleover in little over a (sorry, even I can't do that). Then across the canal at Ripon and on to Copt Hewick. If anybody knows the derivation of that place name I would love to know it.

The road to Marton le More afforded great views over the North York Moors before Kirby Hill and the refuge of Listers Farm Shop. Initially disconcerted by the arrival of a dozen cyclists, the staff responded magnificently so that we all re-caloried enough to carry on. Having tarried, perhaps a bit too long, we set off through Boroughbridge, your narrator now burdened by several pork chops, a pound of sausages, a steak and kidney pie and a dozen pork pies topped with apple sauce. Well, I need the calories. Everything went smoothly to Knaresborough where a brief negotiation settled the routes we would all take home. I hope the ride was enjoyed by all and that everyone is now rehydrating with their favourite patented rehydrating fluid. I know am. Neil P



### **Medium-plus Ride**

The weather did not look too promising for today's rides, a few hardy folk turned up. After a few deliberations of where we would be going, two groups formed for the Bolton Abbey tour with options to change our minds at Stump Cross.

Helen, Tim, Dave, Richard and a few others set off in the first group and our group followed who were six, me, Justin, back maker extraordinary, Sue, Liz P, Alison and Monica.

Out towards Beckwithshaw, meeting a road cycle race which was in full swing, with motorcycle outriders flashing by, we did a quick pull in to the side before the men's cycle peloton swooped past at great speed. Shortly followed by the women's peloton. The cycle race looped round so we met it again as we headed towards Little Almscliff, where the tents and spectators were. Our group were so glad to get down the side lane out of the way, but as we reached the bottom we had to stop again, as the motorbikes flashed by and we waited this time it was the women racing by.

The wind was increasing with drizzle but we cycled on towards Greenhow. The wind began to get stronger as we cycled over the moor top, now we were wind and rain lashed as we struggled to reach the haven of Stumps Cross café. The first group had nearly finished and

were continuing on the published route to Bolton Abbey. After warm drinks and food, Liz P and Sue decided to return back along Duck Street and head back to Harrogate. The famous four decided to carry on to Bolton Abbey as we had done the hardest part and once down to Bolton Abbey it would be more sheltered.

When we set off the drizzle and wind was still going strong but soon abated and the sun shone briefly as we had a lovely ride down to Bolton Abbey. Once through Bolton Abbey, we crossed the A59 onto the newly gritted road and after close encounters with a horse box and a few cars, my chain came off. Many thanks to Justin for fixing it and we carried on the lovely back road to Ilkley.

Now it was warming up and the sun came out, it was fantastic to see Ilkley moor in a misty glow. It was a Coco day coat on, coat off as we shed layers and headed through Asquith. We stopped at Cockcroft Farm for delicious tea and cake, as we decided that we would go back the hilly route via Farnley and Leathley and we needed a sugar fix. Up the steep hills we cycled, the weather was still drier and the sun shone slightly. Down Brackenthwaite Lane back to Harrogate despite the weather, it turned out nicely in the end. 52 miles in good company and well done Alison, who was challenging herself to do it. Liz F.

