

Sunday, August 26, 2018

Wheel Easy Ride Report 638

Short Ride

It was tempting to turn over and go back to sleep safe in the knowledge that as it is Bank Holiday Weekend, the Leeds Festival and the Leeds Carnival it would be bound to rain! However, fitness is the key and nine of us assembled to discuss today's route. Criteria included "not long" and "let's go for it" so, from my collection of rides (four at most), the tried and many times tested "Hole in the Hedge / Sloe Gin Ride" seemed to fit the bill and off we went via the Showground.

It was wonderful to be joined by Geraint Appleyard fresh from the previous day's conquest of several 1:4s involving Sutton Bank and Rosebery Chimney. Geraint's knowledge of clonking came into play yet again. On Wednesday's ride he had diagnosed the reason for my own clonking and by the time we were passing Fodders, he had cured Caroline's ditto. Thus, well-oiled and clonk-free, we positively glided to the hole in the hedge beside the bypass and headed for Follifoot, Spofforth and the joyous the climb past the sloes (too chilly by now to see how things were developing). The threatened rain was gaining pace and gathering dark clouds suggested that torrential storms were looming. To Graham's horror, (says he 'll never come on a ride led by me again) the unanimous verdict was to get home asap and abandon all thoughts of coffee etc. Graham, Dennis, Glyn and Rob scaled Beryl Burton whilst the rest of us puffed up Knaresborough Hill to the Golf Club to be joined by Geraint who had waved the others off from Beryl.

It was a wet ride but by turning a negative into a positive, we realised that the minor roads were very quiet and the pedestrians on the waterfront at Knaresborough were not so numerous - maybe turning over in bed won! Sue D



Medium Ride

We had all looked at the weather forecast, which was dire, but had come out anyway - Charlie, Maggie, Mark, Mike, Richard, Tim and me. We set off on the basis that we could abandon if things got really bad: a plague of frogs on the Greenway would give us pause for thought.

As so often, though, the forecast was Fake News, and we cycled through fairly light drizzle for most of the 31 miles to Ripley, Fountains, Ripon, Littlethorpe and Knaresborough. Admittedly, it started raining properly around Bishop Monkton, and we were pretty wet by the time we got home. But far better to have ventured out than sat at home. Many thanks for the company, and in particular to Charlie for back marking. Justin K



Medium-plus Ride

Fast Group

Four happy chaps set off on a shortened route towards Beninbrough with a wet forecast predicted. The weather wasn't too bad as we collectively made up our route on the fly. The light drizzle started around Whixley but with a quick sprint towards home we were back by 11.30 having done 33 miles average 16mph. A good blast for the legs. Thanks to Martyn, Mark T and Darcy. Paul B

Slower Group

At 08.00 a.m. this morning Tomasz Schafernaker said, "If you're thinking of going out, go now and you might be alright for a couple of hours" - before the cold front sweeps in from the west, bringing the cold, rain and wind. Had we not been ride leaders, we would not have gone out and, on the journey over, nurtured secret thoughts that everyone else in Wheel Easy would have felt the same. Not so! There were twelve eager medium plussers keen to give something a go and there was quite a buzz at Hornbeam as all routes were hastily amended and shortened. The final decision was to head towards Boroughbridge via Farnham, Arkendale, Great Ouseburn and the Dunsforths, with the option of turning left towards Grafton and Aldborough if Justin's plague of frogs descended upon us. Undeterred by a bit of drizzle we set a briskish pace and in no time at all, the stalwart twelve were on the fringes of Boroughbridge. In the interests of logistics, Kevin and James led half the peloton to Lister's Farm Shop and Keith led the rest into the Plenty Cafe. Now, I thought "Plenty" meant "lots of", as in "lots of butter and jam on my giant scone" but Keith informs me that Plenty was a Bond Girl in Diamonds are Forever, starring Sean Connery (1971). Obviously I am too young to remember any of this but some of my older readers might be able to corroborate this statement. In any event, I find it hard to believe that anyone would name a cafe (in Boroughbridge!) after a Bond Girl.

After a very convivial break we exited the aforementioned cafe to find that Mr Schafernaker was absolutely right. It was colder, windier and raining quite heavily. This spurred us on to something approaching a sprint via Minskip, Staveley and Knaresborough back to Hornbeam. It had been a surprisingly enjoyable 31 miles in high spirited, cheerful company on a day when we would have seriously considered doing nothing. Look on the bright side. Rain is good – we need more of it. It was nice yesterday, it will be nice tomorrow and I understand that the other good news is, it is going to be a bumper year – for wasps. Helen T

