

Sunday, June 14, 2009

## Wheel Easy Ride Report No. 164

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Bright sun and the promise of a hot day at Hookstone car park led seven riders, Alec, Bill W, Chris, Dave P, Glyn, Rob (a welcome new rider ) and Roy, to choose the medium to long ride (as defined by DP). However this was to prove to be slightly inaccurate. In fact DP`s nose grew like Pinocchio`s.

At Waterside Dave W joined us (he wanted a longish ride also ?). Then all eight riders headed for Boroughbridge and Easingwold. Sitting in the sun on Easingwold Green was very pleasant, but as there were no cafés open we caffeine junkies got a bit twitchy. So it was drinks and snacks from the supermarket in the sunshine.

Then it was on to Sutton in the Forest, the café in Sutton Park was open so it was 'CTC' (Coffee Tea Cake). The food and drink were very nice. However Bill W and Dave P chose pieces of flapjack, delicious, but only after they had managed with difficulty to break it into small pieces. Roy succumbed to the lure of chips, which turned out to be a wise move as the ride progressed. We also met Malcolm Yates there with Otley Cycling Club.

Then on to Wigginton, Shipton and the cycle path into York. In York, Eric, on the final leg of his ride from Italy, was contacted by mobile phone. Eric`s timing was spot on, and we met by the "SUN" on the Selby to York cycle path.

After many congratulations and looking in his saddle bag for Schnapps or Rhine Maidens it was on to Tockwith, where we cycled past Sarah and Sue who waved at us from the Pub. Ladies waving at us from a Pub! and we didn't notice! We must have been tired.

After Sarah and Sue we were joined my Malcolm Yates and Malcolm M to escort Eric back to Harrogate. It had been a great day, great cycling weather, but as four rider had done the

Wetherby to Filey ride the day before, the 72 miles car park to car park was a great distance also.

A medium to long ride, how` s DP going to live this down? Dave P

Long Ride Mark II. Not being keen on another ride to York (I work in York and try to ride to work at least once a week in summer) I hastily suggested a breakaway long ride heading somewhere in the direction of Masham.

Despite having no real plan three other riders (James, Stephen and Dave) took the plunge and we headed off towards Hampsthwaite by the nice easy Knox route. After that things got harder as we cycled to Clint, Brimham, Dallowgill and Kirby Malzeard.

The banana break at Kirby Malzeard gave us an opportunity to discuss where we were actually going. We decided upon Masham for lunch before tackling the double whammy of Lofthouse and Yorke's Folly. No real surprise as this is one of my favourite routes. The combination of steep climbs and long descents is a real pleasure.

A great day out on the bike about 65 miles in fantastic weather but unfortunately no photos as nobody had a camera. Phil

I arrived in lovely sunshine today to lead the short ride having ridden Wetherby-Filey yesterday. However as I was set on taking my flock to the Sticky Wicket café my short became a medium and everyone was very happy. Dennis who had also ridden yesterday for the 17th time on that event offered to lead the quicker group. There is no holding him back! We each had seven in our groups which changed somewhat after the café stop.

Peter B was impressed that a car driver saw that he had dropped his sunspecs on the road, stopped to pick them up and followed him to return them! (Maybe the motorist had been listening to Radio York earlier in the morning - there was a piece about 'Random Acts of Kindness' followed soon after by a live interview with Eric before he set off from Hull for Harrogate.) Phil abandoned us somewhere. Paul (another GYBR man), Dennis and Peter left the peaceful scene at the café for an undisclosed route home.

The café treated us well, huge pots of delicious coffee and to die for cakes. It was lovely sitting out in the sunshine watching a family playing cricket on the adjacent pitch.

At the Drovers, Caroline was up for something more challenging and sped off in to the distance with Gaye hard on her (w)heels to enjoy the delights of careering down Cut Throat Lane. I led the rest through Ripley, Killinghall and Knox, with Peter P adding in the Crawford "Couloir" for some extra miles.

As I rounded Queen Parade I felt sure I saw Gaye ahead turning on to York Place and sure enough a text from Caroline confirmed that they had ridden from the Drovers through Hampsthwaite and home in 50 minutes! Fantastic. I bet Max got a shock!

Great ride, well done everyone about 30 miles and all home in time to watch Andy Murray win the title. Gia

