

Sunday, November 15, 2009
Wheel Easy Ride Report 186



Over 60 riders turned out to ride on one of the finest November days ever.

Short Ride Report

Six of us set off for the short ride in the August, sorry November, sunshine and mild weather. We were soon heading up through the residential area to the top of Harlow Hill where we paused to enjoy the view across Harrogate. Then it was a quick charge down to Oakdale Bridge, and a climb up to Pennypot Lane. It was here that Charles gears started to show signs of trouble but he stoically pressed on and soon we were down in Hampsthwaite admiring the millennium plaque on the village green. We returned up Hollins Lane to Knox, and through Bilton. By now Charles' gears were giving him so much grief that we were all wincing. However, we were soon back on the Stray after 15 miles of riding in the most fantastic weather. Martin W

Medium Ride Report

Sixteen riders opted for the shorter medium ride to Boroughbridge. Dennis and four other riders set off at a quick pace while the remaining eleven preferred to 'poddle'. From Hornbeam we made our way to Knaresborough where Crawford, on his smashing new bike, joined us. We continued to Farnham, Ferrensby, Arkendale and then the lovely, quiet stretch to Upper Dunsforth, Lower Dunsforth, Aldborough and into Boroughbridge for well deserved refreshments. We met up with Dennis's group who had had their coffee and were on the way home.

After the café stop we continued to Roecliffe, Copgrove, Knaresborough and back home. It was an excellent morning's ride with great company, lovely weather and we covered 32 miles at an average speed of 12mph. Paul T

There were no TV crews but still a cast of thousands turned out for today's rides. After Gia had speedily dispatched the long riders and condemned the short riders to a far off corner of the car park there were still millions for the medium ride. Gia tempted many with the long, long medium ride with the option of a speedier return (long, shorter medium ride) but this still left billions for Paul's medium, medium ride. Showing that he had lost none of his managerial expertise in his early retirement phase, Paul decided that he would lead the medium, medium slightly slower group, affectionately named "the harem" (no offense intended) and asked for volunteers for a quicker group (medium, medium slightly faster group) "les testosterones".

This select group of five were led by one whom some people believe has a brother called Claude, others believe he was a training partner of Tommy Simpson, whilst others believe he is married to a domestic goddess; but to us he is known as "El Butler". Big John, John, Steve and Max were towed in "El Butler's" slipstream at a tremendous pace to low bridge where Crawford was waiting. He declined to join us when he found out that there was a slightly slower group following. His logic being that there would be more "ladies" in the following group. Nice to know that his specs were working! We believe that he actually wanted to show the ladies his shiny black new purchase! "El Butler" took us at mach 1 past Farnham, Arkendale and after a grand orbital loop we arrived at Boroughbridge where thirsts had to be attended to in the café. Sadly "El Butler" didn't join us preferring to swoop off to a date with his domestic goddess. When leaving the café we met the medium, medium, slightly slower group ("the harem") plus Crawford and his new shiny black velocipede. Thanks to the "testosterones" for trying to cover up my teacake extravaganza to my better half, we almost got away with it. Whilst "the harem" and bodyguards were taking tiffin the remaining "testosterones" returned to Knaresborough via Roecliffe but somehow managed to lose big John who was out in front. Hugs and farewells were made at the main traffic lights before we went our separate ways home. A great ride in glorious weather of around 32 miles (what it said on the tin). Max

Medium Plus Ride Report

Before setting off from Hornbeam Park I counted 21 cyclists for the medium plus ride. No sooner had we left than a few more joined us. On the way to Knaresborough we caught the standard medium group thus adding again to our numbers. At Knaresborough Gia made valiant efforts to instill some order and what was thought to be the medium plus group set off once more, only to lose two to the siren call of Morrison's in Boroughbridge. The instructions for the route clearly stated that coffee was to be had at the farm shop at Raskelf. Unfortunately the farm shop had closed down so we pressed on to Easingwold, searching for a mythical coffee shop and ending up in the excellent café in an old peoples' home, causing a considerable but profitable strain on the resources of said café. Ultimately a dozen medium plus riders left for the return trip. At this point you are probably wondering what happened to the other nine. The answer is that some opted to go straight home while a few, impressed by the service on offer, checked in to the old peoples' home. Our group set off at a cracking pace which soon split the group in two. Dropping back to check on the back-markers I was the last to arrive at the T-junction which states 'Little Ouseburn' (the prescribed way) to the left and 'Great Ouseburn (the shorter way) to the right.

As I pulled up I detected a threatening vibe in the air - the pox of democracy had

descended upon the group. A large fellow with an eye patch addressed me: "We've taken a vote and we're going right here". The others murmured assent as his hand inched towards his cutlass. "OK", I said meekly.

They raced off and were not seen again. There are reports that they are now operating off the coast of Somalia. Ian

Additional Report

Dave P we now know why you are such a supporter of Café 21 in Easingwold. The residents were all very welcoming despite the fact that 30 Wheel Easy riders all turned up at once and delayed their Sunday lunch! The staff were marvellous and we left well fed and watered and ready for the ride home.

I led what had now become the medium medium group on the most direct route home. Phil says his drink was turbo charged so he flew home ahead of us and the rest of us sped fairly quickly to get home via Aldwark Bridge arriving back in Harrogate with the sun still shining. A wonderful ride in great company and with several new members. Also hello to Anthony who joined us from Arkendale and was very quickly inducted into Wheel Easy. Gia

Long Ride Report

Fourteen enthusiastic cyclists left Hornbeam on a fantastic autumn day. Our ranks swelled to fifteen at Norwood village Hall where we were joined by Liz. After Norwood we took a little detour from the described route as we went down Jack Hill Lane enjoying fine views of the lower Washburn valley. Then onto Farnley where we turned left to Leathley and then onto Almscliffe Crag - more superb views this time of the rather larger Wharfe. From Almscliffe the route took us to Huby, Weeton and Dunkeswick where we crossed over the Leeds road and headed to Sicklinghall via Netherby using some rather hilly little roads. Lunch was taken in Wetherby at the café in the Shambles. We left Wetherby on the old railway path (this was new to me but everybody else seemed to know about it) and headed to Cattal, Thorpe Underwood, Great Ouseburn and home via Arkendale and Knaresborough. A great day out about 55 miles and well done to Ben who managed some very steep descents (and ascents) on a fixed wheel single speed bike. Phil

