



#### Short Ride Report

Today was my first outing of the new year and luckily all the high winds had died down quite a bit during the early part of the morning, thank goodness! So, with 8 riders: Sarah A, Sarah and John, Joe and Geraldine, Peter B and two not quite new riders Barbara and Justin we set off.

We cycled along Rayleigh Road and up towards St. George's Cricket Ground, through the estate, taking in the quiet cycle paths and onto Beckwith Knowle. Cutting through Greengate pointing out "The Hub" for any cyclists needing refreshment but only open Monday to Friday and out the other end onto Cardale Park. Back on route to Burn Bridge, this was the point of no return as from here we headed off on to the Leeds bound A61 but turning off on to the track towards Kirkby Overblow. We reached Kirkby Overblow but too early to stop for a coffee here so most decided to wait till we got to the Showground and sample what "Fodders" had to offer! At Crimple Lane the group parted - 7 for a drink leaving myself and Sarah A to head off via Forest Lane and home. Thanks to Joe and John for sharing the duty of back marker. I think we definitely enjoyed the better part of the day for cycling! Sue T. Total 9 riders of an average 15 miles.

#### Medium Ride Report

Well we hijacked the medium ride. The fact that no one was going to lead it did not matter. It was still hijacked. Anyway I did not want to tackle the heights of Brimham I wanted to piddle about and the only way you can do that is volunteer to lead a ride and then you can do exactly what you want. We set off really badly, to be precise we did not set off..... until Max had sorted out some stuck up brakes. With everyone under control and ready to piddle about 7 of us set off towards Hampsthwaite, not getting lost at the Asda roundabout, not getting lost at Skipton Road, and arriving more or less intact

at Sprusity Bridge. Sue D narrowly avoided a light, wheel incident when she readjusted the light, away from the wheel. We all avoided a pile up over the messy badly repaired sleeping policeman on the hill into Hampsthwaite. From there we all avoided collapse on Clint Bank due to our inbuilt innate fitness and power. Somewhere at this point we found Paul B loitering on a corner, he had been standing there for several weeks pondering on who had invented the seismograph and when. Well ponder no more Paul, Chang Heng invented the first seismograph in 137. It was a glass of water called a dragon jar. However the first measurement of earthquake intensity was attributed to Schiantarelli in 1783 on an earthquake in the Caribbean. As for the Richter Scale that is a nasty mathsy nightmare that you can look up on t'internet.

Anyway we pelted down to Shaw mills and up Cut Throat Lane, where we decided not to stop due to a howling gale and a driving rain. Shortly after this Monica found she had a puncture, and the ladies in the group of course pushed aside Max and Paul B, our on tour mechanics aside, and quickly sorted out the puncture with little effort, whilst Max and Paul gossiped and did their nails, or if you prefer, quickly started chatting, whilst they offered random useful comments and articles, to the on tour mechanics. The puncture was soon dealt with, in which ever way you choose to believe. Keen to continue the ride we headed for Fountains village, and the iconic tree, where more photos were posed for, in a sudden burst of sun (I think it was sun, sort of bright and light).

After a glorious sweep down into Markington the leader bullied all riders to turn right back to Ripley and the lure of a cafe stop, instead of the promised extra to Bishop Monkton. Liz discovered a trophy cache in a stream, near the Drovers, and now rescued, will be useful for future awards. Two disgruntled men headed off home, as the tired tire changing women headed for scones. Debbie and Sue W leading a scone attack on the nearly empty café, built the team up for the homeward push. As we left we tried to convince a jolly family that our next stop would be Scotch Corner!! Well it could be, one day. Liz braved the roundabout and main road from Ripley through Killinghall trying to convince herself and the rest of us that we should use this route to cause chaos and thus promote the need for the Bilton cycle track. Home in time for a lovely hot bath and a delicious lunch all prepared by our doting spouses.... or not. 23.25 miles by 8 people in about 4 hours! And a very big thanks to the on tour mechanics, we can't manage without you...(Pathetic) Caroline G

Click on slide show for all today's photos

#### Medium Ride Touring Pace Report

We set off in optimistic style for Brimham and Fountains. Wind and light rain did little to dampen our spirits as we kept up a good touring pace despite the pounds put on over Christmas. Our newest member Martin was welcomed and then promptly lost to the Medium Plus speedsters the leader was relieved when we found him again in Hampsthwaite. Some small floods to avoid on the way to Fountains where we had our refreshments. Diverse discussions as usual with W E varying from the architecture of the visitors centre, Charles and Sue ruminating on the elements of revisionism in Dickens and Twain and of course which new bikes to buy in the New Year. A brilliant whizz through the deer park and home via Littlethorpe. Numbers fluctuated through the ride average 17 @35 miles total distance 38 miles. Sue C

#### Medium Plus Ride Report

The Magnificent seven started off under grey skies from Hornbeam, with a touch of trepidation as the phrase " Cut Throat Lane" was mentioned.

Not having done many hills for a while we were hoping Glyn would have one of his "chaps" at the top to supply us with oxygen! No problems encountered at all....then we hit Clint Bank and the rain and wind gave us a bit of a battering and once at the top, (rain caps donned hastily - William with a very fetching yellow number) we all decided best pedal forward to get to the sanctuary of Fountains Abbey Visitor Centre, where we could all dry out for a while.

Coffee and cakes all troughed (Glyn had a Florentine, no less - like to see him ordering that in Spa Gardens!) we sped off at a good pace back home through the deer park, Littlethorpe, Knaresborough etc and we didn't get lost or lose anyone, which I am quite proud of!!

Approx 37 miles, at a decent but not mad pace, great company and a really enjoyable ride despite the

somewhat changeable weather. Mark

### Long Ride Report

The long ride had lost its designated leader so Peter and I agreed to combine forces to act as a replacement for Jill. We headed to Boroughbridge to meet Darren and then continued to Coxwold. Here we were struck by the fear that we might miss out on a lunch stop as the café in Coxwold was closed and there was great doubt about café 21 in Easingwold. Two alternatives were suggested and both involved heading to Kilburn where we split into 2 groups. 5 riders led by Peter headed to Thirsk while the remaining 4 headed vertically upwards to the glider club and what a great café that is, tea 50p a mug, a good selection of food at reasonable prices and a fantastic view.

Our ride continued down Sutton Bank, the descent giving Darren the opportunity to display his descending skills, managing to overtake cars while hurtling round tight bends. We returned to Boroughbridge with Darren setting the pace - I think there was an element of revenge here from a previous ride - but fortunately he wasn't continuing back to Harrogate. The photo was taken at Boroughbridge before we headed home. For the stats 3 riders covered 65 miles, 1 rider 45 miles and 5 riders 60 miles. Total 410 miles. Phil

2011 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 1575 YTD 5207



