



Saturday Ride report

Four ladies, Sally, Carolyn, Sue and myself together with Ben met at Hornbeam. As the ladies wanted a short slow ride Ben opted to do his own thing and set off for Norwood. We four ladies headed for Knaresborough and having been given strict instructions by Malcolm to limit the ride to 10 - 15 miles we agreed to re-assess when we reached Knaresborough. When we reached Knaresborough it was agreed by everyone to go just a little further and ride to Farnham, Lingerfield, Old Scriven and then back to Knaresborough for a refreshment stop. As we rode past Carolyn's house she kindly offered to make us a cuppa. However, as there was no cake on offer we decided to go for eats on Waterside. We headed back to Hornbeam via Beryl Burton, Forest Lane, the cycle path near Morrisons and through the Yorkshire Show site. Jean

Sunday Ride Reports

Short Ride Report

An unusually small number of riders today opted for the short ride - Caroline this being B and not G and fairly new Rob. No-one was in a hurry so it was a very leisurely ride setting off from Hornbeam up Leadhall Lane. For a few moments, two of the medium riders were tagging along behind thinking what a nice pace it was for them until I pointed out that we were the short riders! They overtook and continued on their way to their respective group! We cycled around 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 for a brief photo shoot with the

pretty flowers in the background, not to mention lovely smells coming from their kitchens, we headed off on to the Leeds bound A61 but turning off on to the track towards Kirkby Overblow. We reached Kirkby Overblow in good time and then off to the Lanes - Rudding and Crimble respectively where Caroline was going to head off to "Fodder" maybe and Rob onwards into town and home. Thanks to you both for your company - a very pleasant morning's ride. Total 3 riders of an average 15 miles. Sue
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Click on slide show for all the weekend photos

Medium Ride Report

There were about 21 candidates for the medium ride towards Brimham Rocks. The weather was better than forecast, and, in fact, the rain held off for the whole ride. We could not locate William, so Paul kindly agreed to lead a slightly faster sub-group, as he knew the route we were due to take. Geraldine and I took charge of the remaining 10 or 11 intrepid cyclists, including at least 2 new members, to Knox and Spruisty Bridge via the cycle path at the back of ASDA, over Dragon Bridge and through the park and the poets. Geraldine just about managed to stay somewhere near the back of the group. We crossed the A61 with some difficulty, and headed to Hampsthwaite, over the bridge and up Clint Bank. Caroline did not stop, but kept the momentum going steadily without all the 'unnecessary' stops for re-grouping. In fact we lost our first group member who decided to turn back before we got to Shaw Mills. Caroline was rewarded for her lack of stopping by demonstrating the meaning of 'schadenfreude' by sitting on the seat at the top of the steep hill up to Cut Throat Lane out of Shaw Mills and watching everyone else suffer on the way up. Photographs were taken in the now-traditional spot where Caroline was sitting, and we headed along to the Drovers' crossroads via Bishop Thornton. Left towards Fountains Abbey and Brimham rocks, till we reached Watergate Lane, where we turned right, somewhat contrary to the official route, which would have taken us to Gill Moor and down along the bridle path back to Bishop Thornton. In fact, Caroline was feeling so full of energy that she and Mary, Sue and Linda left us at that point and headed off to Brimham Rocks. We had checked the bridle path out the previous day, and it was full of puddles, potholes and mud, so we took the loop to the East rather than to the West, and arrived back at the Drovers' crossroads via Markington instead of Gill Moor. Left at the Drovers' and down the hill towards Ripley. There was a do in Ripley Castle grounds, and there were big queues of stationary or near-stationary cars, so it was actually easier than usual to negotiate our way through Ripley on the A61 into Killinghall. Peter and his daughter Ali and one of our new riders carried straight on down the A61 at this point and the few remaining of the group went along the Crawford bypass and back via Knox. There were only 5 of us left by the time we got to the top of the hill from Knox Ford, and we went our separate ways, having covered around 25 miles. Joe & Geraldine

Breakaway Group Ride Report

Having been led expertly and kindly by Jo and Geraldine up Clint Bank and up up Cut Throat Lane, I felt a little bit churlish taking a breakaway group of ladies up up even further to Brimham Rocks, but I had a bee in my bonnet and hills needed to be climbed. Jo made sure we had someone to contact in an emergency, and Geraldine gritted her teeth and got on with her back marking of 8 men and we set off. The ladies, Sue W, Lynda N and Mary, all behaved very well and did not leave me too far behind. After numerous ups and some extremely glorious downs I made them all go into Sophie's cafe in Hampsthwaite, where we considered being airlifted back to Harrogate, after scones and jam, a stilton and leek pork pie (too salty), lots of cappuccinos and a gallon of fresh o.j. and soda. Thank you ladies for your company, and thank you Jo and Geraldine for leading us to the Brimham Rocks turn off so beautifully....28.59 miles and 60,000 metres of up, a few hours and a noticeable head wind, but no rain. Caroline G

Medium Plus Touring Pace Ride Report

It started normally enough as a Sunday Ride but what dark forces were to be at work on the moors and dales between Harrogate and Ilkley. Ten of us were enjoying a pleasant enough ride out across the moor beyond Beckwithshaw but as we approached the top the first dark hand of dread appeared as

the MacTindle and Margolis Clan overtook our innocent group of travellers and threatened to demean us by showing greater speed. Trying to escape by picking up the pace was no use as the dark cloud of dread caught us at the toilets with some of the poor souls of our women being confused into almost entering the men's area. Panic set in as we headed to Low Snowden and despite our attempts to escape two of the awful clan beat us to the top of the hill by taking a short cut at the main road. Taking our life in our hands we raced to the bottom at Askwith and on to the sanctuary of Avanti at Ilkley. But in no time Brian appeared looking a little different and saying that a group of women had been led astray by MacTindle the Sorcerer and had been taken under dark spells to the fearful Cockpit Coven. But Brian had also been cast under a spell and his influence spread as three riders were lured to the dark heights of Ilkley Golf Club and Appletreewick. Worse still he then showed his true evil powers by kidnapping that innocent damsel Yvonne and dragging her away over Ilkley Moor. Now only four true warriors of Wheel Easy survived and they headed back through Askwith hoping the dreaded MacTindle had already left. But no, there he was with his captured group of female cycle slaves. Mysteriously they headed away over the hills to goodness knows where. We held a short fervent prayer meeting, each of us wishing that they would be released from the evil spells by the Good Lady Sophie of Hampsthwaite. The four remaining sole survivors made their way back to the haven of Harrogate and its calming waters. I believe out of 10 riders 3 did 60m, 2 did 50m, and 3 did 45m. That makes eight - I told you dark forces were at work. Martin W

Max, Paul, Sue, Sarah, Gia, Helen were the sedate group of about 25 who chose the medium plus ride today, heading off towards Ilkley. At Timble we gathered up Angela and followed the route to Askwith where the mutiny began. (A very gentle mutiny of course) The first mutiny of the day involved a café, Cockpit Farm where on arrival the owner was overwhelmed with too many customers and not enough staff. Paul and Gia ended up in the kitchen washing up, Sarah cleared tables and served up the orders. We had a chat with a leader of a large group of British Cycling Sky Riders who are trying to get people out cycling (a bit like Wheel Easy!).

Second mutiny of the day centred around 1. not going to Ilkley 2. Were there more hills? 3. How would we keep the mileage up 4. we wanted to stay out on our bikes a bit longer 5. Another café stop, namely Sophie's. Paul suggested back to Askwith, Timble, Blubberhouses and Thruscross and Sophie's in Hampsthwaite which was taken up by Sue, Sarah, Paul and Gia. Helen, Angela and Max climbed up from Askwith then set off home at Timble. A great ride, the weather turned beautiful, the heather looked gorgeous, another great Wheel Easy day. About 40 miles. Gia

Medium Plus Ride Report

In usual medium plus fashion a leader was informally appointed and someone else was persuaded to write up a report. Don't expect literary genius as I was the one for the report! Darren led and nine of us left Hornbeam for the delights of Beckwithshaw and on. Alas Julie was not feeling top dollar so had to leave us at Timble. About this point we noticed Richard had a new Trek Madone which was the envy of everyone else in the group. Six Trek bikes out of the remaining eight riders. On towards Ilkley and a fair head wind which we all hoped would blow us back home later! Avanti was busy as usual with plenty of cyclists calling in (not forgetting of course the second W.E. group). Some folk had too much caffeine and thought too much of the tailing wind so a manic departure from Ilkley was made. Richard was now regretting the extra layer he retained at the cafe! Decent pace back along the prescribed route (note that there was not a single rider in favour of Martin's suggested detour past the Cow and Calf). Great ride, great company. 8 riders, 43 miles each. Steve

Long Ride Report

Long (85 miles), hilly (about 5000feet of uppy downy bits) and spectacularly beautiful (doesn't come much better than Coverdale and Wharfedale). Cafe stops at Thorpe Perrow and Grassington, home about 6. Enjoyed by all (at least that's what they told me)! Phil

2011 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Weekend 2130 YTD 111401



