

Sunday, February 19, 2012
Wheel Easy Ride Report 303



Short Ride Report

Four of us opted for a short hilly ride in bright sunshine, blue skies and a sharp wind, a magical day to be on a bike. We headed down to Burn Bridge, up Brackenthwaite Lane, before swooping down north and on to Beckwithshaw. It was some swoop into that northerly wind with eyes and noses running from the cold! Then we headed back to Valley Gardens to the Magnesia Well Cafe for the essential warming cup of coffee. Martin W

Click on slide show for all today's photos

Medium Ride Report

Eight people joined the medium ride for a cold ride under a blue sky. Through the Yorkshire Showground, on to Follifoot and Spofforth, where Rachael joined us. John left us at Little Ribston and from there we rode on to Tockwith, with two breaks for drinks and water before going on through

Marston Moor, Askham Richard, Wighill, Thorpe Arch, and Wetherby. Thank goodness: a coffee stop. There was a wide range of riders, and Ian was sweeping up so when we got to the coffee shop we chipped him off his bike. Simon and Sue decided not to stop and carried on home. We stayed for the warmth, and then set off up the cycle path, on to the showground and home. Yvonne S

Medium Plus Ride Report

Dave Preston led about 28 of us to Low Bridge. Unfortunately Terry had trouble with his seat post so had to retire back to Hornbeam. At Low Bridge we met the Sunday EG's, the fast boys had already gone and Dave set another group after them. Debbie and Gia joined this group, Paul T (after trying to help Terry) sped to catch us at Farnham and Peter J ably led us round the route. New route for many of us, cycling in to Helperby Brafferton from Flawith. We met Dennis, Sue, Gordon and Alison coming towards us and have no idea where they had come from or where they were going! We longingly saw a sign to Boroughbridge, 4 miles, but sped past and on to Cundall, Norton le Clay and then some of us wondered where exactly we were going. A helicopter overhead looked as though it had a food drop for us but it flew away! Dave S reassured us that we were near Dishforth and Boroughbridge was within striking distance. In Boroughbridge, Darren's group were just leaving, The Old Foundry couldn't take us in as they had a big booking so Tasty Snacks it was. The staff did well to serve us all, including a group who arrived from Thirsk and our lone stray, Paul B arrived as the wheelks never did catch him up. (This is a Wednesday Poddlers expression). Six of us returned via Aldbrough and Marton, two went back via Minskip and one went off to Roecliffe.

Fabulous ride, great route, good pace, gorgeous clear sunny day and excellent company. Thanks Peter for leading us round. 46 miles. Gia

Brilliant day for cycling and there was around thirty takers for the medium plus ride. This obviously meant splitting in to groups. This is not always as easy as it seems, as the words slow and fast are riders personal perceptions and self assessment is not very reliable as one riders very slow can be another riders very fast. So it was down to Low Bridge for everybody for final team selection, self assessment was abandoned along with the democratic process, and two teams were set up, the greyhounds and the retrievers. Away went the greyhounds with their route sheets , followed by the retrievers (all thirteen)led by Bob setting the pace that would (we hope) suit all riders. Ferrensby and Arkendale soon followed. It has been said by Generals after making battle plans, that when the battle starts all plans have to be changed. DP had only planned one coffee stop but the mood of the

group implied that two would be appreciated. It was here that DP forgot what planet or road he was on and the cafe became a figment of his imagination or his medication and it was then no choice but on to Boroughbridge (four riders leaving us before we got there) for numerous bacon sandwiches and coffee, this went down well so there was some forgiveness for DP. Whilst taking sustenance a sonic boom was heard and Darren and co entered the cafe, how the hell had they got here at this time, ah well there`s very fast and there`s Darren. On leaving Tasty Snacks some eyes were cast on pieces of gooey sponge cake, this reminded us of Big Arnie`s famous phrase "I`ll be back" (and they did). South to Aldwark Bridge in the sun with Bob pacemaking, meeting our lost four heading North. Then on to Aldwark village, Flawith with a detour in to Myton-on-Swale to view the bridge and the site of an England v Scotland match, a most unfair match as the Scots were full time professionals where as England were part time amateurs who could not make Mothercares 3rd team. Then on to Helperby Brafferton, Thornton Bridge and Boroughbridge where Oh! calamity Tasty Snacks was closed (no gooey sponge cake for some) however Sonia recognised us and opened up. Said gooey sponge was consumed (see photo) but identity of consumers has been withheld. Then away still in brilliant sunshine to Knaresborough and Harrogate, where climbing out of Knaresborough we were overtaken by Eric followed by the long ride group. Without doubt the best cycling weather of the year, it was shame to waste it, so the ride was extended somewhat??, with full approval of all riders. Thanks to Bob for pace setting, this was most successful as no gaps appeared in our little pelaton. Approx 48 miles carpark to carpark in wall to wall sunshine. Dave

Long Ride Report

A perfect winter cycling day with clear blue skies, wonderful views & dry roads, if a little chilly to start. That didn't deter the 12 riders who opted for the ride to Masham. The group kept pretty much together as we headed out through Hampsthwaite & up to Brimham Rocks. Soon after this a faster group headed off while the remaining six riders continued at a steady pace up on to the moors & down to Kirkby Malzeard, then took the loop round Ringbeck & came into Masham via Swinton. On the descent into Masham Roger had a close encounter with a chicken which appeared to throw itself under his back wheel, but fortunately both survived to tell the tale! The two groups met up again at the café in Masham. The faster group soon set off for home although with diminished numbers, with a couple of riders opting for a steadier pace. After a hilly morning the route home was a relatively flat ride via Snape, Carthorpe & Kirklington & Ripon. A great ride of approx. 60 miles in good company. Jill



