

Sunday, April 22, 2012

Wheel Easy Ride Report 312



Short Plus Ride Report

[Route Map](#) Malcolm and Gia offered our starter group a slightly longer ride today of 23 miles to Stainburn Woods, Menwith, High Birstwith and Hampsthwaite. This tempted six of our regulars including a welcome return of Alison now recovered from her wrist injury (not cycling related!) They set off ahead of the main group.

Rachel's bike had a puncture at Hornbeam but Ruth came to the rescue offering her daughter's bike so after a minor detour the day was saved. However it started raining as we gathered at The Squinting Cat and not long after that the hail starting coming down.

The beauty of this ride is that the views are so good that you can see what weather is ahead and blue sky and sunshine were our rewards.

Everyone thought that the "ascent" to Stainburn and Menwith was a breeze compared to last week's testing ride to the honey farm which as Martin said is one of our hardest short rides.

We met up with Sarah and John's group and after a photo at Clapham Green where we announced that we could now smell the coffee, we all enjoyed sailing down to Sophie's.

The staff did well to cope with 18 of us descending on them at once but we discovered that the medium plus group had already enjoyed one of the earliest coffee stops on record!

Home via Knox, great ride, well done to everyone, a first for many of the riders and we were never more than a few miles from Harrogate. Thanks to Michelle one of our newest members who was an ace back marker! Gia and Malcolm

Medium Ride Report

16 riders with the excellent team of Gordon in the lead and Alison ushering from the rear. They went far beyond the call of duty in their care including waiting outside in the cold and wet while we enjoyed excellent refreshments at Tasty Snacks. Route was Knaresborough, Burton Leonard, Boroughbridge, the Dunsforths, Ouseburn, Arkendale and Knaresborough. Weather was much better than we expected with only one heavy shower as we left Boroughbridge. Congratulations to Jim who kept up very well on only his second ride and had never done this distance before. Think he was pleased to get home! Peter lead Diane and Mary straight back from Boroughbridge but the rest of us did about 37 miles. Liz

Medium Plus Touring Pace Ride Report

Fourteen riders accepted the challenge of Yorke's Folly, soon to become ten after being pebble-dashed by hailstones and drenched by ice water, forcing an impromptu tea stop at Sophie's. The wiser three (four) members headed for an early bath, (the storm was not to be the last soaking of the day).

After several spells of sunshine etc, we arrived at the Cattle Market Cafe in Pateley Bridge to dry out and drink tea, although we found it necessary to decline their offer on the "today's speciality" notice board which read "Free range, grass fed, Ramsgill peasant in mulled wine"....(cattle shortage?).

Followed by Yorke's Folly, which, with admirable determination was conquered by one new, and two newish members, despite a hamstring injury. A rather satisfying 40 miles were enjoyed despite the weather, just one more of those days one thanks heaven for Malc and Gia and the Wheel Easy team that helps them to run it, phenomenal!

Alec

Supplementary to Alec's ride.

Approaching Hampsthwaite with the hail bouncing off our helmets, the three back markers thought it should be hail and farewell to Alec.

On pausing in Hampsthwaite the three (two EG`s and a lady) informed Alec they were in to Sophies for caffeine and cake and then wimping home.

The three had not been inside long before they were joined by the full team.

Sophie's profits again rising.

The warmth increased peoples spirits and the cheerful banter began. (see photos).

All good things must come to an end but as a compensation the sun came out.

However having previously made their decision the two wimps and a wimpette headed for home in the sunshine without any feeling of guilt.

Alec made of sterner stuff took his team (comprising such stars as Marigold Bill and The Thunderbolt Kid) up` t dale to their inevitable destiny Yorke Folly.

Dave P

Long Ride Report

The weather forecast was not very encouraging, i.e. heavy showers and some sunshine. Despite this depressing forecast eleven riders set off to tackle the long ride. The ride set off from Hornbeam Park and we made steady progress through Boroughbridge and across the A19 to Carlton Husthwaite. At this point it was noted that the tea rooms at Ampleforth did not open until 12:00 and therefore at our present rate we would be too early and it was muted that an additional loop could be included in the ride. The ride then set off in the direction of Byland Abbey, on arriving at Wass a splinter group decided to take up the option of elongating the ride via Wass Bank and avoid the wait at Ampleforth tea rooms. The more sensible members of the group continued on the planned route and only had a 5 minute wait before the tea rooms opened. While we were partaking of the cheesecake and other delicacies the heavens opened up and it poured down with rain. But just as we had finished our lunch so did the rain. Again the group was divided with those who did not do Wass Bank setting off early. This first group then took a diversion in Gilling to have a quick look at the miniature railway. Eventually the Wass Bank group caught up the first group and after a short stop at Easingwold we all returned to Harrogate. This was an amazing ride not just because of the scenery and the route but because we managed to avoid all the heavy rain. PCJ



