

Sunday, May 13, 2012

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 315



### Acorn Ride Report

About 20 plus people, having managed to park their cars in a field at the edge of the village, met at the Village Hall in a chilly wind, and clear blue skies. After the photo call some speedy people departed, declaring they needed to be back for work or breakfast at 9.30 ..... leaving an array 15 or so W.E others to get on with a delightful version of an individual time trial. The wind was behind us if there was any and by 9.30 most of time trialers had regrouped, watered, de watered, stuffed bananas, at Stillington. We continued as directed past glorious yellow rolling hillsides of oil seed rape, fields of rusty coloured soil and bright emerald woodlands - all very David Hockney and suddenly we were tackling the hill before the lunch stop, up towards Sherriff Hutton. Strange as it was only 10.30. By 11.15 we had stoked up on tea, coffee, juice or water; tuna, egg and cress or ham sandwiches; Mars Bars, Snickers or Kitkats; an apple, an orange slice, a packet of crisps and some very fudgy fudge, most of us felt ready to continue and possibly be home in time for a little extra lunch by 1.45 pm, after the reward of cakes in the village hall from the Acorn Ladies. Alison who had just returned to cycling after a couple of accidents caused by trying to jump on with grandchildren, and a few too many holidays, was escorted round by the ever chivalrous El Butler, and I had to pedal very quickly to keep up with Max the mechanic so he could attend to my continuing gear mal functions...so sadly any gossiping was put on hold. Paul on his very lovely new bike was having trouble keeping the beast from running away with him, and gallant Alec was having trouble keeping up with new to the Acorn Ride Sally, who he

was keeping an eye on and who was speeding along far faster than anyone despite the increasing headwind. Another couple of watering stops, the last of the two offering a very lovely peanut toffee as well as water, saw us all individually on the homeward straight and Julie relaxing on the side of the road in the sun at Marton cum Grafton. Several speedy boys who had not needed to be back for breakfast, greeted us warmly as they returned home still attached to their bikes. The lovely ladies and gentlemen who were marshalling seemed very pleased we were neared the finish and we kindly served tea and excellent cakage when we did finally reach the end by about 1.45 pm. Thank you so much to all the Acorn People I for one had a superb day.... 62 miles at 12.8 mph.... or so P B's gadget said. Caroline G

### Short Ride Report

A healthy number of 16 riders coasted off from Hornbeam Park at a gentle pace to enjoy the morning ride, with the weather fair but breezy.

Our route took us to Knaresborough via Hookstone Road and Forest Lane Head to Calcutt. We stopped for re-grouping at Low Bridge, attempted, (and failed), a little tyre maintenance before continuing along Abbey Road to enjoy once more the spectacular wood carvings, which never cease to amaze!

Left turn to Chain Lane and under the bridge to pick up Water Lane by the new estate, for the second section of off road. Right turn to Boroughbridge Road and left towards Farnham.

Left at the T junction to pass through Scriven, and eventually a left turn at the little school to Lingerfield and a loop back to Knaresborough via Old Scriven, where we re-grouped to decide who would partake of a cafe stop at Riverside Cafe. All agreed this had to be done, and those more hardy members of the group ate and drank al fresco, while some more delicate flowers sheltered indoors!

Back to Harrogate via Knaresborough Road and Bogs Lane. An enjoyable morning with good company, in true Wheel Easy style! Sarah E

### Medium Ride Report

A rather large medium group set off from Hornbeam on a very blustery day. At Hampsthwaite the group were consulted about an alternative route to avoid the muddy and/ or stoney bridle path and a clockwise route via Brimham Rocks to Ripley was agreed. It was also suggested that the group should split into two with a faster paced group led by Julie but one member (John) set off ahead of both groups and only Brian and John Walsh accepted the gauntlet . It was rather gusty on the descent to Ripley but stunning views across Nidderdale the whole way. The trio stopped off in Ripley for refreshments before heading back to Harrogate via the A61 (25 miles ). Julie

From Hampsthwaite we formed a touring pace group of 9, including John making a guest appearance from Toronto, Ben back on his bike for the first time since a knee operation, Liz who successfully directed us from the rear, and Dennis, senior to most by several decades who of course sped off up towards Brimham stopping to allow us to catch up from time to time. The stiff wind made the long climbs a notch tougher than usual, but we finally reached the Rocks, had a banana break and took the opportunity to savour the fabulous views with Drax very clear on the horizon, though no sign we could find of York Minster. Three heavily laden and quite mature Dutch cyclists (a fourth was further ahead) told us they were half way through a 2 week trip, starting and finishing at Newcastle, sea to sea and back again, about 500 miles in total. We were ready for the zoom down past Warsill towards the Ripley road. There was a shock in store when we found that the Drovers was no more. The landmark pub, crumbling for years, had been demolished (see photo) and we speculated on what would replace it - presumably housing. Sue T reminisced on her many visits to the pub as a (very?!) young girl in the 80's for discos, which regularly ended up in fights between the local youth. Ah, happy days!

In Ripley six of us stopped at the tea rooms, and then continued along the A61, Knox, and, with another final tweak suggested by Liz off Crab Lane, back towards Hornbeam. Malcolm

#### Medium Plus Ride Report

The Medium Ride led by Yvonne consisted of six riders. We went to Timble via Beckwithshaw, down to Blubberhouses, across to West End, and having had enough of the combination of hills and wind, deviated from the advertised route by turning left up to Greenhow, and left again to Stump Cross Caverns for a coffee. The ride to Stump Cross Caverns is usually downhill, but for some reason we seemed to be going uphill with the wind in our faces. After that we re-traced our steps to go down Duck Street (with the wind on our backs), and turned left towards Hampsthwaite and a second coffee stop. We learned two lessons from Steve: don't turn into a howling gale, even if it is downhill, and if you are going to send a text message to your wife about fortifications make sure you send it to the right person. See photographs. Ask Steve. (Two words have been changed in the report to protect the innocent and give a clue to those who might be wondering).  
Yvonne

#### Long Ride Report

We went along Penny Pot Lane where the fly tipping culture seems to be resurrected after the respite of the opening of the re-cycling institution (tip). Menwith, slog up to Greenhow into a strong headwind, bigger slog to

Grassington and onwards to the joys of Littondale. A stop at the Falcon Arms in Arncliffe was a watershed. The lack of tea (the underworked bar worker didn't want to put the kettle on) resulted in some valiantly pushing onwards and very much upwards to Malham. Eric and Jill joined me but decided to return. A Timothy Taylors Landlord at its prime and an exquisite pork pie with added black pudding in a bed of Lincolnshire mushy peas, picked by Tibetan poets was the perfect match for the climb to Malham. Although there was only one arrow, the wind magnified the climb, and when concentration wavered, the wind was aggressive. The scenery is a religion, its majesty and tranquility evoke unbridled emotions. Malham operated the hunger pangs -- quickly sorted by beans on toast. Onwards to Bolton Abbey for a coffee in the car park. Back on the A59 with a wonderful tail wind. Peter



