

Sunday, September 23, 2012
Wheel Easy Ride Report 334



Short Ride Report

Seven people decided to do the short ride this morning. With no wind and no rain eight riders set out round the houses to Beckwithshaw, right to Penny Pot Lane, left along to Rowden Lane, West Lane, Killinghall and Grainbeck and Knox Lane where Trevor left us. We followed the cycle route to Bogs Lane, where Christine and Kevin also returned home, and continued on to Forest Moor and Morrison's Car Park. Sandra turned right and Helena sped on, while Sue, Allison and Caroline went for coffee in the Park. Well done everyone particularly first timer Helena. 16 miles exactly

Our leader was a speeder
And clearly didn't see
The sights all around us.
I shall name but three -
A field full of curlews
A yard crammed with knights
A cycle path blocked with road kill.

... a ride of joy and delights!

Sue D Backmarker

Medium Ride Report

Alan stood in at the last minute to lead a faster group leaving ten of us to ease ourselves gently and graciously up to Little Alms Cliff, thence via the Sun Inn to Menwith for a Wheel Easy treat. No one else in this group was aware of the existence of a small nature reserve situated on one of the corners of the RAF site. It's called Willow Carr Corner and the opportunity was taken for the day's photo (a poor shot taken through my mucky phone aperture). Then on to Sophie's in Hampsthwaite where we met up with the others who'd only just arrived. This lot had diligently followed the prescribed route which included that nasty hill out of Birstwith, whereas we'd got more sense. Alan took everyone back to Harrogate, this leader having got shot of his bunch for a quick way home. (alane in loco geraldinia et iosefus gratias - Latin for 'to Alan in place of G & J thanks') Paul B

We set out on the Medium Faster than Slower ride on a crisp, sunny, autumn morning and headed out west to Little Almscliffe. After a brief stop in the car park at Stainburn Forest, we carried on to Menwith where everybody decided they were up for tackling the Birstwith Beast. So we swooped down the hill to Darley and then rolled along Nidderdale until we reached the foot of the Beast. We had a brief stop to gird our loins and other bits, then up the hill we went and were rewarded by a freewheel down to Hampsthwaite and the pleasures of Sophie's café where we were soon joined by the Slower than Faster ride. After refreshments and refuelling, we headed off back to Harrogate in a large group with some peeling off to take shorter routes home. The final mile or so in Harrogate was marred by car drivers honking horns at us for no apparent reason. The last instance cause a rapid and unexpected dismount for one of us but fortunately apart from being shaken, there was no harm done to body or bike and the car driver had the grace to be very contrite. Alun

Medium Plus Ride Report

A lot of riders were up for the medium plus ride this morning, but most of them seemed to prefer Jill or Liz's offers to my touring pace. Nonetheless, seven of us set off on a very cold morning and had soon voted for a coffee stop at Morrison's in Boroughbridge. The ride to Easingwold was enlivened when we got ourselves mixed up in the Tour of Britain----at least it seemed like from the speed they were traversing North Yorkshire. Ever onward, our arrival at Café 21, our lunch destination, proved a major disappointment; it was closed! Furthermore, a tour of the town , assisted or impaired by the

Police, who had most of it cordoned off, revealed no watering holes to be left open. The sandwich shop had closed at 12.30, we were informed by Liz, whose group had overtaken us whilst we were having coffee. An executive decision was taken, and we returned to Sonia's less than enthusiastic welcome (1.30) at Tasty Snacks, Return to Harrogate was further impeded when yours truly punctured in Knaresborough; Rob very selflessly passed his bike over, true Tour de France style, so I could continue on to Hornbeam and finish the ride. 42 enjoyable and eventful miles. Thanks to all participants: Lorraine, Simon, Andy, Rob, Bill, and Dave P. Dave S.

10 of us set off but Adrienne, Rachel and Vanessa left us at Boroughbridge where we had a short stop. Gordon and Dennis left us at Helperby then for Peter, Alison, Neeta, Sue W and Liz it was a push against the wind into Easingwold. A helicopter was hovering over the town as we arrived. The bad news was that Cafe 21 was closed due (we think) to a change in management today. The good news was we found a takeaway cafe about to shut its doors but were willing to serve us with coffee and delicious food first! As we sat eating in the square at Easingwold we were entertained by watching the police turn away motorists at the road block, presumably connected with the helicopter. The second entertainment was watching Dave S, Dave P et al circling round the square firstly on an unsuccessful attempt to find a cafe and then a more successful attempt to find a way out! Shortly after we followed their route and headed back via Aldwark Bridge and Arkendale

with the wind being a bit more helpful on the return. About 47 miles for 5. Liz

Seven of us set off at a slightly faster pace including Jill taking a break from the long ride and two new members, Dave and triathlete Nicki. Apart from a slightly nippy start and a light headwind into Easingwold the day proved a lovely autumn spin out to Easingwold as the Medium plus returned to its usual length. Arriving in the sleepy market town in Easingwold we cycled past some police cars and bent bollards, as we went in search of a café (not easy on a Sunday - even the old folks how was shut due to an infection) but we settled on a take away form Tea Hee. During the break a low flying helicopter hovered low overhead and increasing traffic through the market square intrigued us but we could gain no info from a local Bobby. We took an alternative route out of town due to York Street being cordoned off (later to discover this was for a murder investigation!). A nicely paced return to Harrogate with us going our own ways from the top of Harrogate Hill. 49 miles at an average of 15mph and satisfactorily home for 1.30pm. William

Long Ride Report

Gia treated the long ride to the luxury of a quick departure from Hornbeam on the basis that "if you want to do 95 miles through the scenic splendour of Wensleydale, Bishopdale and Wharfedale you will already have decided to go". The first part of the ride was easy-going up through Ripon and Middleham to Wensley. The weather was fine but cold and we were struggling to keep fingers and toes warm. Glynn recommended The Mill café at Aysgarth for lunch and it turned out to be an excellent café stop and surprisingly quiet considering Aysgarth's honey pot status. The ride through Bishopdale into Wharfedale was well worth the effort with the increasingly grey sky adding to the drama of the views. A second café stop was taken at Grassington where Chris (returning to Wheel-Easy after over a year on the missing list) wisely decided to carry on. With the rain falling, Eric decided he simply must extend the ride to a full 100 miles and carried on to Bolton Abbey, returning to Harrogate after 103 miles. The rest of us returned the quickest way possible (93 miles) cold and wet but looking forward to another ride next week.

Off Road Ride Report

A rather confusing start to this ride13 of us left Hornbeam Park, we went up to 14 at one stage, but only 12 fought our way through to Brimham! The route was the usual mixture of bike paths and minor roads to Knox Ford, then we took the "Killinghall Bypass" (new to some) to reach Ripley, then the track through Hollybank Wood to reach Clint, via the first proper mud of the day. Then roads to Shaw Mills, to take Cut Throat Lane, a distinctly muddy track to-day, but it does have a nice ford to play in! Bridlepaths (and more mud) took us to Brimham Lodge with its impressive array of aerials, and a bridlepath to Warsill, where we took the roads to Fountains for a café stop at about 12.30, if memory serves. Those of a sensible disposition took the roads back home, but some never learn, and so the "mudspattered six" set off in search of more adventure. We retraced back through Fountains Village, then took a bridle path on the left, and were soon blundering around various grazing paddocks trying to find the gate into the woods. (In my defence, this was the only real navigational malfunction of the day.) Regaining the track, we dropped steeply down through the woods to take the causeway and bridge between two lakes.....disappointingly just marked as "Fish Pond" on the map.....this to me is a serene little spot, I can easily waste an hour here....even the foul slime underfoot can't spoil it for me! Of course, you have to drag the bike up through the woods the other side....The track brings you to Haddockstones (Farm?), where the farm buildings are for sale with planning permission, might have to keep an eye on developments there. A little zig-zag on the road brings the next track, but we are resolute by now, and press on all the way to Ripley on bridlepaths. Home at about 4.30, just

as the drizzle was setting in. Well done, everybody, we will do another one if anybody is still speaking to me! Colin



