

Sunday, October 28, 2012
Wheel Easy Ride Report 339



Short Ride Report

Twelve riders joined Malcolm and I for the short fifteen mile ride via Rowden Lane with Darren and Kevin offering to be our back markers. The options for the short ride seem to focus on a good café stop and judging by the enthusiasm and time spent at Sophie's in Hampsthwaite the route was well received. Graham on only his second ride with Wheel Easy looked very comfortable and judged the café stop as excellent. A wise man! We returned via the Jennyfield cycle path which was new to most, meeting Peter B on the way. Many thanks to Darren for helping to shepherd our flock safely round and to everyone who made it such a companionable ride. Malcolm and Gia

Medium Ride Report

14 riders enjoyed a dry, largely wind-free ride of about 30 miles (route details below). We split and regrouped several times - testament to the experience and good sense of your average Wheel-Easy rider. What wind there was eased us along on the outward journey and was much enjoyed by at least half a dozen red kites surfing the 'thermals' along the ridge between Kirby Overblow and Sicklinghall. The 'big hills' after Collingham split the group again, that and the scent of coffee in the nostrils meant we arrived at the

cafe in two groups but were efficiently served with a selection of the most glorious cakes. The ginger treacle sponge was unctuously rich and fuelled a brisk return journey. As desired, individual riders departed along the route to home destinations until just four riders crested the final hill behind the Showground after which it was all plain sailing... Peter L

Hornbeam, Leadhall Lane, Church Lane, Burn Bridge, across A61, Walton Head Lane, Kirkby Overblow, Sicklinghall, R into Northgate Lane, R at end through Linton to Collingham. R at former Star Inn, cross main road, and turn L behind shops to T junction, R into Jewitt Lane, up hill to cross roads, continue to Bramham, crossing over A1, follow signs to Clifford, Boston Spa, Thorp Arch, Walton, Cycle path to Thorpe Arch Trading Estate (cafe stop). Cycle path to Wetherby, then cycle path to Spofforth, Follifoot, Rudding Park, Showground, Hornbeam

Medium Plus Ride Report

When I had a proper job and had to go on management development courses, group theory at the time stated that groups "Form, Storm, Norm and Conform." Today's Medium Plus group did just that, but not necessarily in that order. Fifteen of us left Hornbeam and made our way through the Show Ground then on to Follifoot and Spofforth where we picked up Rachael. The group was beginning to divide itself in to faster and slower cohorts but managed to keep more or less together until Marston Moor Memorial. A faster group under Terry's command swept off in search of "fried scones" at the Greenery and I stayed with the second group. The weather was kind and there was even a sort of brightness as we waved goodbye to Paul who was omitting the Bilbrough loop. Rachael went first and almost immediately emitted a sharp hiss (or at least the bike did) of the sort that says to you "large, sharp thorn". Fortunately, Steve in Orange Jacket stepped forward, upended the bike and proceeded to fix it. It was one of those recalcitrant racy tyres that neither want to part company with the wheel, nor re-attach itself. Upright once again, we remaining four (Sarah, Steve, Sue and Helen) continued on into a stiffish breeze, beginning to feel really hungry and finally alighted at the North Street Deli in Wetherby where we did justice to a rather splendid lunch - and not a fried scone in sight. There was then just the little matter of the last ten miles through Sicklinghall, Kirkby Overblow to Harrogate, slowing occasionally to admire the spectacular Washburn Valley. Many thanks to Steve for getting his hands so dirty, not complaining and keeping us on the road. 44 miles Helen

Long Ride Report

Let's be frank, it's all about cafes really and one of our favourite "Wonderful Eateries" is Ampleforth Abbey Tea Room. Moreover rain was forecast for Skipton. Therefore the team of three took a harmonious decision to ignore plan A and go east to Kilburn which enabled us to take that lovely forested road leading through the arch to Byland Abbey and on to lunch. The spicy parsnip and carrot soup was excellent, though Phill thought there was slightly too much carrot, the accompanying wholemeal bread was delicious, Jill raised no complaint at the excellent looking egg sandwich, the home baked scones are to be recommended and the coffee was good. We returned via Easingwold. A great day out in the company of the long ride elite. Did it rain in Skipton? Peter Roberts



