

Sunday, November 11, 2012
Wheel Easy Ride Report 341



Perfection isn't usually what you expect in November, but today was an exception. Glorious blue skies and no wind, ideal for almost anything outdoor and certainly for cycling. Which no doubt explained the great turnout at Hornbeam even though a large group were at the same time heading to Thirsk.

Away Day Ride

This was Phase Two of the away day experiment and once again we awoke to an uninterrupted blue sky and a dazzling sun. Twenty members had expressed a desire to join us and exactly twenty gathered in Thirsk Car Park. We departed just as the church clock chimed ten with the intention of keeping the group together until at least eleven o'clock for the Remembrance Sunday two minutes' silence. James had had the foresight to bring a small wireless with him so we could stop at exactly the right moment and reflect on our own personal fallen heroes. We could hear the silence at the Cenotaph, broken only by the sound of some London seagulls who had clearly opted not to observe the quiet moment! All had gone well, the sun almost felt warm, there was no wind and the route remained flat and we arrived in

Northallerton, feeling quite peckish, at lunchtime. The only fully functioning café was Caffè Nero so some chose refreshment indoors and some raided the local Morrison's and bravely ate in the square and chatted to some of the military gentleman and ladies who were much in evidence and in a very jovial mood. Everyone seemed content to remain as a well behaved team of twenty, with the prospect of the hilly half of the ride to come, which was a mild shock to the system but certainly kept us all warm. In Borrowby our instructions said turn Left at the cross roads opposite the Wheatsheaf Inn. At this point we waved goodbye to Julie who lives nearby and it was noted that she turned immediately right into the Wheatsheaf Inn because she needed to see if there was "anyone she knew" inside! One last hill to Upsall ("Up" being a clue) and we stopped for a final picture at what we call the Hobbit House and then a delightful three and a half mile descent back in to Thirsk. The sun never stopped shining all day and the roads were quiet. The only noise was the hum of conversation and laughter and a bit of swishing through mud on some of the more rural roads. Thanks to Paul for a bit of world class back marking! Everyone seemed to have enjoyed the concept of an occasional Away Day, so there may be more, even though we are fast approaching the shortest day – or the start of the days lengthening, depending on your point of view. Thanks for all the fun. Keith and Helen

Short Ride

Fourteen of us were up for this ride today, and that was even before I mentioned the word 'Sophie's'. It turned out that one of us, on only his second club ride, didn't yet speak Wheel Easy though he could get by in French and German, but by the end of the ride he was fully converted and we were talking about (but not in) Spanish and Italian. Darren and I did our best to stick to the rules and break the group up into two, but with limited success until we reached Beckwithshaw where his group agreed to give ours a minute's start which we just about maintained to Hampsthwaite. Sophie's brand of perfection matched the weather. At 11am the café fell silent for the 2 minutes of remembrance. We were in no hurry to leave but fortunately some people had other commitments so eventually we made our way up Hollins Lane, across the nightmare A61 to Knox and the now beautifully restored Spruisty Bridge to Harrogate. The short ride doesn't come much better than this. 15 miles. Malcolm



Medium Ride

Although the weather was as promised fine, sunny, wind free and a bit crispy...the perfect day for cycling....you could tell things were not quite right as Billy Whizz, aka Flash Gordon, our ride leader was waiting for his group in the area set up for the medium plus riders, who were preparing to speed off up to Brimham and up Yorke's Folley. Finally, we got him pointing in the right direction and he set off again, in the right direction to Knaresborough with 22 Medium pace riders hoping to pop to Boroughbridge via Copgrove and back via the Dunsfords. At Low Bridge two groups were formed and those feeling full of life and trepidation followed Billy Whiz and a gentle more relaxed group fell in behind El Butler, once more kindly standing in taking the place of an absent leader. It was decided it was a much nicer route to go to Bishop Monkton and Roecliffe, thus avoiding the mud ridden cross country path from Copgrove, to Boroughbridge. At the lay-by on the hill before Bishop Monkton we realised all was not well with the main speedy group leader, in fact he was looking decidedly unwell and peaky, and was sensibly abandoning the ride and returning home to bed, rather than continuing the heroic task of leading a ride, when he should have been in his sick bed.. Hope you are better B.W. Kevin sped off to alert the other group of his departure....By now

we'd gained some and lost some, so goodness knows how many stopped to observe a peaceful 2 minutes silence at 11 o'clock on the 11th of the 11th, thinking of those lost in wars, those left after wars, and no doubt a multitude of other thoughts. At Boroughbridge 3 of the sedate group decided not to partake of the delights of Tasty Snacks, and left 10 or so riders in Sue T's capable wheels, fighting the speedier group for seats in Boroughbridge's finest food emporium 'The size of your portion depends on how pleasant you are to us,' (I love that). So goodness knows what happened to all these people we left in need of nourishment, I expected some of them, if not all, to overtake us at some point on the route home.

El Butler communicated with the manageress of Butler Sunday Roasts and was given a firm 'time of eating' hour and at this point we realised that Francesca was not Neeta, but a lovely Italian lady, who I am sure even Steve would mistake for Neeta...(the bike was the give away!!!!). A pride or is it posse of exquisite cats , calicos, ginger, greys, black, white, big, small were spied in a gateway looking slightly shocked as we sped past. I am seriously considering going back to find them to capture a few.... El Butler continued a pace and hopefully arrived back in time for Lunch, we chatted with a couple from Leeds cycling home and I narrowly avoided being squashed by a flash Mercedes at the top of Knaresborough Hill due to total carelessness on my part and idiot speeding on his part. A lovely day for a ride, a super route and jolly company....I hope you all got home safely. 35miles. Caroline



Medium Plus Ride

11 Members set off on a gloriously sunny autumn day to journey out to Nidderdale via Brimham Rocks. A leisurely 'lumpy' ride brought us to an enjoyable resting place at the Cattle Market café in Pateley Bridge. Then it was time to gird our loins, affix crampons ready for the climb up Yorke's Folly. We actually had several folly virgins with us today, and all accomplished it admirably with only the odd stop on the way up to dispense with warm layers of clothing. "Piece of cake" gasped one folly virgin at the top! The ride leader, needing to return home before the clock struck 1.30pm left the group in the good hands of Dave and Bill. All in all clocking up approx. 45 miles. William

Long Ride

An amazing turnout for the Long Ride, 10 riders left Hornbeam Park heading for Sutton Bank and its environs. It was even more amazing as by the time we reached Boroughbridge the numbers had increased to 14 riders. The weather was exceptional good, clear blue skies and lots of sun. The group made steady progress and at Hutton Sessay we all stopped for the 2 minutes silence. At Carlton Husthwaite the road to Kilburn was signed as being closed, but the leading group obeyed the sign and trailing group disregarded

it. PCJ then set off in pursuit of the leading group to inform them of what had happened. This group then continued on to Coxwold and headed back towards Kilburn where we found one of the Peters repairing a puncture. After assisting with the puncture the group headed for Kilburn and the climb up White Horse Bank which was very testing and the cafe at the Gliding Club was much appreciated. The group then set off for Boltby Bank which everyone managed to descend without incident. From thereon it was a pleasant ride back to Harrogate with a breakaway group stopping for another refreshment stop at Morrison's. Peter J

