

Sunday, December 9, 2012  
**Wheel Easy Ride Report 345**

**Our new Vice Chair Terry welcomed everyone and then organised the various rides**



### **Short Ride**

On a day of clear blue skies, eight of us opted for the short ride. We headed west towards Beckwithshaw. Jane and Kevin turned right, towards Killinghall, while the rest of us turned left. Up Shaw Lane, and then right into Briscoe Ridge Lane - and straight into the stiffest headwind of the year, when we had to pedal hard to make any progress at all. But our reward was minutes away.

I'm not sure there's a better combination on any of our rides than Braythorne Honey Farm and Almscliffe Crag. Ducks and chickens wandered around in the sunshine at Braythorne, oblivious to the fabulous apple upside down cake inside. Then the high-up route round the Crag gave us panoramic views up and down Wharfedale. The route back via North Rigton and Burn Bridge is undeniably hilly, but an experienced group handled the climbs with aplomb. Many thanks to all for a great ride, and to Darren for back marking.  
Justin



### **Medium Ride**

The Medium Plus ride seemed to be the favourite choice today, from Hornbeam, leaving Caroline and myself with about sixteen riders between us. We all set off together in brilliant sunshine. Natural selection came to our aid after the climb to Kirby Overblow, and those of a sturdier disposition, left Caroline to muster her troops while the rest of us headed on to Sicklinghall Linton and Collingham. Here John E passed on the message to the lady in waiting there, that Caroline was following on behind, and would be with her shortly. Duty done, our select six then climbed up the hill towards Bramham, Clifford and Boston Spa. Dennis and Alison went their own way to Wetherby while JohnE, Paul T, Peter and Alan continued on to the Wetherby Cycle path, and refreshments at the Deli/Costa in Wetherby. Paul T joined us later at the window seat in the Deli after his Costa coffee. While watching the world go by, Dennis sauntered past, pushing his bike, and carrying his pump!? I wonder what that was all about, and where was Alison? Our flapjacks and coffee arrived, and we soon forgot all about other things as we tucked into the most delicious home made flapjacks. The four of us then carried on to Kirk Deighton and the Spofforth turn in Little Ribstone. Peter, Paul, and M... no Alan carried on to Spofforth, Follifoot and home, while John

E, released from his leadership duties headed back to Knareborough alone, ahhh. An invigorating ride, some hills and head winds, but enjoyable on a clear open December day. About 35 miles covered at approx 11 mph, for those who want to know. John E



Things are never as bad as you think they are going to be. Strangely I had had nightmares about the hill out of Collingham...even though I knew it was not too bad....Getting lost in Collingham on the main road was always a possibility too, also where was the turn off up the precipice? Thankfully despite losing Joe S and Max and then finding Max, we managed to get out of Harrogate, quite quickly. The faster boys and girls kindly waited for us at various stops but I could see they were getting cold and John E was eager to get into Morrison's cafe, so suggested they went on and we would perhaps see them in Morrison's. Geraldine led the way and did not miss the turn off to Collingham. Sue W was waiting, to carry out duties as a local guide, in the pre arranged spot and we continued up the slope, where I was overtaken by lots of black and yellow lycra on speedy bikes, a few walkers, a couple overexcited horses and a positive traffic jam of cars and white vans. At the top we cleverly continued straight on and reached the main road to Bramham quite painlessly, due to the following wind which had followed us all the way

so far. Whilst having a quick breather at Bramham, Max and Geraldine indulged in some bike dropping and bending and we then headed towards the wind and Wetherby and rushed straight into Morrison's, where we did not meet John E and his fast people. They had obviously gone for a Farrow and Ball exterior and a few skinny lattes. Anyway we had some magnificent sandwiches for £2, I have never had a better non homemade sandwich, and a stunningly good cup of decent cup of coffee for £1.30. Really first rate. The homeward journey was sheltered along the bike path, but straight in our faces from Spofforth, (where Sue decided to return home via Kirk Deighton), up to Rudding and home. Geraldine's visitors were stalwarts managing strange bikes and the Yorkshire climate. It was the wind that was bad not the hills which were quite good really. I hope Joe had prepared hot baths and a hot meal for the returning visitors and Geraldine or perhaps read all the papers. 31 sunny, but blustery miles. Caroline G



### **Medium Plus Ride**

We settled to a group of 6 after we negotiated the bike jam on Stray Rein (after which the faster group disappeared and were not seen again) and collected Paul B, patiently waiting in Killinghall. It was a novelty to most of us to descend the hill at Clapham Green and climb up Stripe Lane. Wonderful

views at Brimham and quite a fight with the wind. Alison left us here so 5 continued to Fountains Visitor Centre via Sawrey and just managed to beat the lunchtime crowds into the cafe! Return was through Ripon and Littlethorpe, Paul left us at Burton Leonard and James at Knaresborough, leaving Sally, Lynda and me to return to Harrogate. About 38 miles, Liz

Another Monster Medium Plus ride, judging from the number of riders wanting to do it. (The Med & Med Plus do seem to be rides of preference). We originally had two leaders, Liz P and Dave P (only related by letter) however due to the lack of takers for the long ride we had a spare Eric and a Terry who very kindly rallied together a fast Med Plus group from the gathering on the stray. They were given a head start (as if we could keep up with them) so as not to alarm motorists with our numbers, who might think that the revolution had started and cyclists were taking over the world. This left Dave P with a squad of nine and Team Liz not far behind. Then out to Knox via Bilton, Martin leading the way, this was slightly longer, but it put more distance between us and the other groups, less traffic but more dozy dog walkers. Unfortunately at Knox, John had to leave us with a disc brake problem. (hope you got it sorted John). Martin then led all the way to Hampsthwaite, where he very correctly waited for us. Now this was not all Martins fault, and while he did not exactly pause outside Sophies?, he was sufficiently near for people to smell the coffee. There then followed some quizzical (or were they pleading) looks. The situation had to be taken in hand so Dave P (the nominated leader) had to ask the obvious question? So it was in to Sophies for the morning caffeine fix, with strict instructions to avoid the full English. We then climbed to Brinham Rocks but it was worth the effort for the great sunny views over Gods County. The swoop down to Sawley then followed, with some hitting 40mph and through Studley Park (which is always a pleasure) and in to the Spa Gardens cafe where Caroline had just enough room for eight, as another Christmas Lunch was on the go for another cycling club. After sustenance an incident occurred, when the nominated leaders (though when you have eight experienced riders who all know the route, the title tends to be honorary) jacket zip failed. However Caroline being a good Girl Guide attempted to solve the problem by binding up the said EG with duct tape. Now this did not raise any eyebrows with the other Wheel Easy riders, however the other cycling club`s did, so they had to be assured that the recipient was not in to bondage, and the only service provided by Caroline was good grub. The duct tape failed, so it was then safety pins and off to Littlethorpe before anything else failed. There then followed another ride back to Harrogate once again in bright sun with a very kind wind. Good weather, good company, and in the words of Cill Black "a

lorra laughs" and also to please the CTC and their campaigns, 60% female. Which us men enjoyed very much. Dave P



## **Long Ride**

PCJ was all for cancelling the long ride due to lack of support, but Phil S and Dave R turned up at the last moment and convinced PCJ to lead the ride, so four of us set off promptly from Hornbeam Park. This was almost too prompt as Peter R caught up with us while crossing the Stray. He was most concerned about this unusual punctuality displayed by the Long Riders. After a short stop at Knox Bridge to check if any other riders would be joining us we headed for Menwith via Hampsthwaite. The ride across the ridge towards Menwith was tough going in the windy conditions. Then it was down the hill to Dacre and Darley and then up to Summerbridge. At Summerbridge we tackled Hartwith Bank; apparently this is a first for a Wheeleasy led ride. On reaching Brimham Rocks it was forward to Fell Beck. On taking the left turn

to join the main road Phil S was nearly blown off his bike, and we had to cycle down Fell Beck to try and achieve some reasonable speeds. We all successfully managed to reach Masham, via Kirkby Malzeard, after abandoning the Ringbeck part of the ride in one piece, despite some scary moments crossing Nutwith Common. The ride back from Masham via Snape, Carthorpe and Ripon was comparatively uneventful as the wind was generally in our favour. There was a small mutiny at the end of the ride when some riders decided to go via Littlethorpe and the Leader had to follow them. A good ride with wonderful views of the Dales in the bright sunshine but the gusty wind made it hard going. Peter