

Sunday, February 17, 2013

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 355

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### **Short Ride**

It was great to see the sun shining as 15 riders set off from Hornbeam Park on our way to Hampsthwaite. There was a bit of a nip in the air but if anyone was feeling chilly, they soon got warm on our climb up the road from Beckwithshaw towards Penny Pot Lane. At our welcome stop at Sophies in Hampsthwaite, everyone enjoyed excellent refreshments and a good chat. Malcolm joined us, and being a true gentleman, made his first job to check if Clare (on her first WE ride ) had fared well on his borrowed town bike. Having been reassured that she was fine, he ordered his tea and gave us more detail on the update of the Bilton to Ripley route. Our route home was via Knox and then Kevin guided us through the cycle route to Dragon Bridge. After that we parted company as various riders went the most convenient way home. It was my first time at leading a short ride. I'm sorry I can't remember everyone's names, but you were a lovely group and thanks again to David for volunteering to be the back marker. 15 miles. Monica





### **Medium Ride**

What a beautiful day to chase shadows! Where was the numbing fog? With a large crowd wanting to the medium ride today we opted to split into three groups. Thanks to Paul B for leading a group of faster riders. He's getting good that boy; we never saw his group once they had left. I took the medium pace group and Sue elected to lead those who could multi-task as well as look after ailing Eggs as well as Kevin the tutor. There was a little jostling for position between the last two groups until pace of group was matched to pace of rider. Somehow I ended up with only 8 riders in the group at LowBridge. A further 100m on I had another defector to Sue's multi-tasking group. Farnham, Arkendale, the A1M and the Dunsforths swiftly passed before we found ourselves at Boroughbridge, where the usual three suspects declined a stop and rushed back to Harrogate. The remaining four found ourselves bereft of café space. Much toing and froing ensued along the High Street before a vacant table was espied. After recalorification a steady pace through Roecliffe, Bishop Monkton and Burton Leonard brought us to Knaresborough, where James peeled off for home. Then from nowhere appeared the remaining core of the multitasking group and a smiling DP! We all then headed up the Col de Starbeck before dispersing to our individual nests. An enjoyable ride of 37 miles in, as always, good company. Max

A varying number of riders opted for the leisurely paced ride; fingers and toes were freezing as we set off, but soon warmed up, thanks to Caroline's thermal tea bags! Beautiful sunshine accompanied us through Arkendale, the Dunsforths and Aldborough. At Boroughbridge we were disappointed to find that our newly discovered cycle-friendly cafe ( Chez Nous) was closed, so we followed D.P. and Roy to Morrisons for an E.G.-style breakfast. By general consensus we deviated from the prescribed route and returned via Minskip, having lost 3 to child-minding duties etc. At Farnham Sue and Monica elected to go straight back, the rest of us went via Lingerfield and Staveley. A lovely, sunny ride of 32 miles. Sue



### **Medium Plus Ride**

Sixteen riders utilised the marvellous weather for a late winter hilly ride to Pateley Bridge. The route was Beckwithshaw, Little Almscliffe, Sun Inn, Fewston, Meagill Lane (first photograph), Stone Trough Inn, Padside and up to Yorke's Folly (second photograph). Brakes were required on the descent and again in order to sharp left into the Teacups Cafe at Pateley Auction Market - fantastic value; £1.50 for a mug of tea and a scone. On the return leg the group split at Glasshouses with 10 remaining for full advertised ride up to Blazefield, Fellbeck, Brimham Rocks, Ripley and Harrogate. Despite 26 years cycling around about the district, I had never been up or down the road to Blazefield, and this rarity was not to be missed. The advertised 41 miles turned out to be more like 37, but no one was short changed on the hills. Most enjoyable ride, giving the legs and lungs plenty of exercise in excellent weather and with a good cafe stop. Peter L



**Long Ride**  
Report to follow



