

Sunday, May 5, 2013

Wheel Easy Ride Report 366

Short Ride

There were seven riders in total for today's ride and it was a day for celebrations. It was Wheel Easy's seventh birthday, Malcolm's undisclosed birthday and Dennis proudly announced the arrival of his fifth great grandchild and the first girl. Congratulations to all. Oh yes and I nearly forgot the temperature stayed in double figures and the wind speed stayed below double figures. What was there not to celebrate? With a maximum ride of 15 miles imposed it was to Sophie's café in Hampsthwaite via the Greenway, Ripley and Clint Bank. A brief stop was made on the Greenway to take a photo of Gia with Malcolm and "Malcolm". (She did seem overexcited having two of them to deal with) Amidst celebratory cakes and drinks the World was "put to rights". As usual Dennis bombed up the climb out of Hamsthwaite to lead us back to Knox. Robin left us at Killinghall and the rest of us took the cycle path to the iron bridge and along to Regent Avenue to explore the pathways that go under the houses and into Lime Street before making our farewells on Christ Church Stray. Well done Andy on his second WE ride. Justin, hope you got back in time for your other commitments. A gentle and very sociable ride: thanks to all, Max



Hornbeam Park To York

What a fantastic day for a ride the sun was out with a cool breeze to help us on our way, 5 of us set out from Hornbeam with Graham as our back marker, our route took us out via Forest Moor Road to the Low bridge at Knaresborough, where we were joined by Jeremy, we ambled along Abbey Road and turned right towards Little Ribston through the village with a left turn into Ox Close Lane and a nice flattish run to the A1 with a bike repair stop just before the old A1 for Jeremy, (trust him to bring a broken bike on long ride). Everyone kept up with the speed which we averaged at 13 mph (faster than we expected but after all it was very flat) over the A1 on Wetherby Lane to Cowthorpe, then right into Tockwith Road (up the only real hill which is only about 100 yards long) and through Tockwith. We stopped for photos at the Marston Moor Battle Memorial (and oops more bike repairs for Jeremy, so I lent him some tools in case he had to stop again), through Long Marston and left onto the B1224 (York Road) to Rufforth (where we thought about a coffee stop in a church hall but I managed to talk them out of that). Now for fantastic sights overhead as we headed to Acomb, looking up there were a few gliders flying and taking off

from the York Gliding Centre to our right. Now we have reached the edge of York crossing the roundabout on the A1237 (York Ring Road). Staying on the B1224 we headed to the centre but at the fork junction where there are traffic lights we turned left towards Poppleton then right into Water End and right again at the next lights into Salisbury Road straight along into Jubilee Terrace and onto the cycle path along side the river which we followed all the way to Tanners Moat and the Malting's Pub where we parked the Bikes in the racks. We arrived earlier than planned so we had a short walk by the river and a sit down in a nice garden and another photo op. Than back to the Pub for 12:00 and first things first and the cheesy chips were ordered, after a lovely lunch we all got ready to make our way home but I decided on another plan which I hatched to get out of the ride back,. Now with my plan in full effect Nicky phoned an ambulance and off I went nursing my dented pride (I really didn't want to spoil the ride, so sorry I couldn't join you all on the way back). I handed the route plans to Jeremy & Graham for them to lead the ride home. Thanks to Nicky, Graham, Marion, Jeremy & Christine for great company. Distance was 23.5 miles one way so total would have been 47 miles. It took us 2 hours 5 mins although we'd planed to take 2 hours 30 mins one way. Kevin



Medium Ride

Undulating, the website said; hilly, I say. Despite the spring sunshine, the day didn't start brilliantly when the wind blew my bike over at Hornbeam and smashed my mirror. The wind was a constant companion during the ride, although it was mainly behind us coming back. About 20 people opted for the medium ride, along a rarely-used route south towards Leeds. The faster and fitter went off with Monica and David, leaving around 13 with Geraldine and me. We went through the Showground and down the hill and past Rudding to the ring road. Instead of going straight over towards Follifoot as we often do, we turned right on to the ring road and rode uphill and into the wind to the turn off to Kirby Overblow, where we re-grouped. It started to rain ever so slightly, but it didn't come to anything and we went through KO and down the hill to join the A61 at the bus stop. The group had become somewhat strung out by this stage, and, unusually, Geraldine was fulfilling her role as back marker admirably when Alan's front wheel went into a rut at the side of the road and he fell off. Geraldine rang me, but I didn't hear the phone in my efforts to keep up with the pack, and it wasn't until we reached the top of Weardly Bank and stopped for a rest that I realised the back markers were quite a long way back. It was quite a tough climb, and into the wind, and one or two of the group took the sensible approach and walked up past the well-named 'Burden Hill House Farm', but the views on the way up almost made up for the pain. Alan was bleeding a little, but was manfully carrying on, and Geraldine didn't think he had broken anything, but wasn't sure. We carried on down towards Eccup reservoir, and I missed a left turn towards the reservoir, but we were able to get back on track across the dam wall and up to Harrogate Road, which we crossed and went round the back of the Grammar School on to Wigton

Lane and Slaid Hill. We turned left towards East Keswick and then, on Alison's wise advice, we made sure we turned right to Bardsey, rather than carry straight on to East Keswick, which can be a bit fast and narrow with SUVs speeding to the golf club. Even so, the traffic was a little heavy and fast on the way from Bardsey to EK. As we were now heading northeast, we had the wind behind us, and we went easily via Linton into Wetherby. However, two of our number, who had gone on ahead, were seduced by the pub in East Keswick, and Caroline was seen to dive in to the pub beer garden and gulp some of Alison's lager. It had a remarkable effect on her, and she sped off up the hills towards Wetherby, where we decided to go to Morrisons for refreshments, as we were probably too many for the North Street café. Refreshment really meant 'lunch', as it was then after 1pm. We decided to abandon the official route back through Sicklinghall, Kirby Overblow and Burn Bridge, and we took the cycle path to Spofforth. Alan was by this time feeling that his arm hurt rather more than it should, so he sensibly rang for his better half to come and pick him up. James left us to go back to Knaresborough, and Paul to Killinghall, and we finished the ride going up the Showground hill, arriving back home around 3 pm. About 35 fairly hilly (not undulating...) miles.



Medium + Ride

Sunday's ride was a very pleasant meander through hilltop villages North of Ripon in super cycling weather. There were fourteen takers who initially divided into two groups; my group comprised Barbara, Tracy from Scotland, Bill W, Dave P, Roy, Kevin, Bob & Ian. Coffee was taken at the excellent Sun Parlour and we potted round to Sofie's for anyone who wanted afternoon tea. Regrettably, the Ride Leader did not quite know the last few miles of the route, and having waited for now non-existent followers, arrived after most had gone back to Harrogate. However, "all's well that ends well", and after tea and a bun I rode the new cycle path with Yvonne and Martin to complete a most enjoyable day out. Thanks to all who have enquired about my wellbeing. DS

Medium+ Cafe Nero Group - A small group headed for Ripon as a breakaway, having succeeded in separating from the main peloton. One of our number suffered some minor injuries from a fall so some minor first aid was required. We then spent a little while getting excellent coffee and pain au chocolat in Ripon to make up for being separated from our friends. The main group were soon caught up as we headed up the hill to Galphay, and then it was a glorious ride with friends through the hills of North Yorkshire.



Long Ride

Nine people opted for the long ride & for most it was the first big mileage ride of the year & everyone seemed happy to keep to a steady pace. The destination was Northallerton & the route included some new roads for some, while for those who had done a similar route last year it was the first opportunity to see the views as it had been shrouded in mist last time! Much of the ride was relatively flat with some more rolling sections between Felixkirk & Northallerton where we had the first café stop of the day. The wind wasn't as much of a challenge on the way back as expected & the group made good time back via Newby Wiske, Thirsk & Boroughbridge where we had a second café stop. It was then a direct route back to Harrogate for most, arriving back around 5pm after approx 80 miles – a great ride in good company

