

Sunday, May 19, 2013

Wheel Easy Ride Report 368

Short Ride

Today's Short Ride was designed with options in mind. In the event 22 people opted for the ride and Paul very kindly offered to lead a faster group who would then discuss the options having reached the Showground. My group of nine included newcomer, Caroline, who is actually an accomplished mountain biker. Welcome! John very kindly acted as backmarker and accrued "camping points" throughout - rescuing my bungee and counting chairs at the coffee stop to name but three! We enjoyed to the Showground - birdsong, green shoots and sunshine!! Andy was delighted with his performance on the ascent of Rudding Lane. His first try four weeks ago had nearly required resuscitation but not today. He positively sailed up and made the decision on the strength of this to "train" for next year's Acorn Ride. The decision was made to follow Linda's coffee recommendation back at Hornbeam but first, we went via the Stonefall Open Space track and thence to Bogs Lane, Christ Church Stray and The Zone on Hornbeam Park. This was a first for all of us and what a find. We joined the wall climbers and families and I think if we'd played our cards right could have joined in a birthday party - the pink Princess cake looked very inviting! However, the sandwiches proved wonderful and Sue's green blueberry muffin was the subject of interest and conjecture. We departed from the Zone to our various Sunday activities. Thank you all very much. Sue Downes



Medium Ride

About 10 very speedy looking people with speedy looking bikes were looking ready for a bit of speedy riding up hills, as we gathered in our positions ready to start the ride. Despite having tried not to tell them where we were setting off for, they sped off towards the Asda cycle path and the Greenway, leaving me leading from the back as normal. Alison, thinking that she was going to over sleep met us on the Greenway making the number of ladies up to a nice round 4. Our true leader Gentleman Dave Preston calmed the pace and there was some momentary catching up as we left Ripley and turned left up the hill to the Drovers. Dennis was very encouraging with talk of a pint at the Drovers and tales of his lovely city break in Budapest....to be recommended. Paul T filled me in on the Belgium jaunt and his trip to New York and more exciting ones in the future. As we climbed up towards Brimham the two nice kind gentlemen Dave and Paul escorted me (in a very Omega Quickstep fashion) back to the peleton meeting Jill J. who had lost the breakaway group and the back of the peleton, and was feeling a little lost. From Brimham it was a glorious down with a small hillish hiccup to Burnt Yates, where we posed and pouted for a photo

shoot. During the modelling session the breakaway group over took us looking suspiciously satisfied with ice cream round their mouths; Janet protesting too loudly, I felt, that she had not had one. At this point El Bulter led a group straight home, Dave P lead a group via Clint Bank, down to Hampsthwaite, Alison and Gordon headed for the Gardener's Arms and I got muddled up with a pony and trap race down Holly Bank. Safely back on the Green Way, the Margolis family were spied showing Orianna her grandfather's statue and Sally just back from Italy could not resist a quick cycle, escorted me back into town and home, in the sun. About 32ish miles ish. Thank you for your patience - I had a lovely ride. CG.



Medium + Ride

We were 7, Paul B, Simon, Mervyn, Sue W, Lycia, Justin and Liz. Terry's faster group set off first but we passed them on Walton Head Lane when they had a puncture to attend to. They passed us on the Thorp Arch cycle track but were then not seen again. As we passed Tadcaster and went on to Bolton Percy there seemed to be hundreds on cyclists going in the opposite direction. We

patronised Bolton Percy tearooms and sat outside in the sunshine enjoying such as cheese on toast or cream teas. Paul, who had had to endure rude comments(from other groups) on his beautiful new yellow/green jacket, drowned his sorrows in a big bowl of cream with a bit of hot chocolate! The route to Acaster Selby then across the airfield and alongside the River Ouse was idyllic in the sunshine and on the cycle path we stopped to admire Jupiter to the Sun as some of the group had not seen them before. As we turned towards the A64 near Tesco, disaster struck Mervyn's bike as his back brake seized up. That was fixed then 100yards further on he had a puncture. Even with 7 of us helping including a theatre nurse and 2 engineers it took a long time to fix even though we found an operating table! Eventually we moved on and had a brief stop at Marston Moor. By this time Mervyn's spokes were breaking so at Little Ribston he decided to walk/ride to Knaresborough and get a bus or train. Paul had sped off to cook dinner, after he had prevailed upon a lady in Cowthorpe to fill 2 water bottles. The rest of us returned via Spofforth and the Showground. About 58 miles. Thank you all for a lovely ride and to Justin for back marking. Liz





Long Ride

What a fantastic tour of the dales in good weather. Five riders from Hornbeam and Glynn from Leeds converged at Leathley, and continued the Prelude to this route through Otley, Bolton Abbey, Embsay and a rather unpleasant stretch of the B6265 to Rylstone. Then the joys of this ride unfolded as we rode to the Town End Cafe at Airton where, from the outside tables, there is a stunning and un expected view of Malham Cove. After a steady climb westwards the road to Settle drops through bending switchbacks under Attermire Scar and steeply to the town where we turned up the Ribble valley to Stainforth. Here we joined the final stage of the Etape Du Dales and I have to admit that certain WE riders derived great pleasure from passing some of those exhausted Sportive riders on their last climb up to the flanks of Penyghent. From the top there is a wonderful descent to Halton Gill with spectacular views along the length of Littondale which we followed to the Grassington road but keeping to the, more scenic, north side through Hawkswick. Passing Kilnsey Crag we turned to Conistone and tea with cakes in the sun at Hebden. This energy boost got us up the hill from Dibbles Bridge and then home via Duck Street. Just note how many iconic scenic highlights of the Dales are mentioned above and all within 96 miles cycling, surely the best Dales tour must be on your list for next year. Peter Roberts

