

Sunday, May 26, 2013

Wheel Easy Ride Report 369



Short Ride

Short ride today of 17 riders to start splitting at Killinghall into 2 groups. Then there were 11 and we covered some smooth some rough a very stunning geomorphic view up Nidderdale from the back road, past the sewage works, over to Lund lane then some up some average coffee, some very pleasant company, some down some up and back. Glorious weather, nice ride. 13 Miles. Welcome to Julie and Mary for their first Wheel Easy ride. Paul



Medium Ride

What was this TWO consecutive days of sunshine!

Yesterday had been a great day for the official opening of the Nidderdale Greenway and here we were again in shorts and t-shirts at Hornbeam J

From the original planned three ride leaders, now unfortunately down to two, Malcolm headed off first with the speedier group and I set off after with 7 others. Welcome to Howard on his second outing with Wheel Easy.

We headed off towards Kirkby Overblow but unfortunately had to say bye to Trevor who wasn't feeling too well so he headed off back to Knaresborough (hope you are ok Trevor?) Onwards through Sicklinghall and Linton, into Collingham and my "favourite" hill Jewitt Lane. Well done to Sarah (nice to see you again) as we climbed to the top and then a swoop down into Bramham. Through Clifford and into Boston Spa we said bye to Dennis who had his Sunday lunch waiting!

We had a quick comfort break including banana and apple stop, plus various mobile calls to return. Back into Wetherby now down to 6, we headed for café and non café stops, finally to our various homes!

Thanks to everyone for the relaxed pace today but who cared, we had spent it in sunshine. About 35 miles. Sue T

Faster Medium Ride

I know every other report is going to say the same thing, but it was a lovely day, and a large number of cyclists out to enjoy it. There were 8 in our slightly faster medium group, and I was pleased to meet Tony and Brian, I think for the first time (though nowadays one is never quite sure). Also good to see American Will back on his 2013 Wheel Easy debut. We were soon down to 7 as Sur John was going to 'surge on' to a rendezvous with a 93 year old lady in Bradford (or at least that was his story). His route was going to take him up old Pool Bank, but I hope he found the alternative I tried to recommend, if only I'd remembered the name – Creskeld Lane, a nice less arduous alternative, though a mile or two longer. The Jewitt Lane hill challenge was a little easier than usual in the sunshine – isn't everything? – and the stretch after that is for me the best part of the ride. Gordon and Alison left us at Bramham and we followed Tony, who knows this area particularly well, along his preferred route to Boston Spa and Caffé Deli, which is good. We joined the bike path by the prison at Thorp Arch, and then the Harland Way from Wetherby which was blocked by 4 fallen trees, presumably victims of Friday's winds - we walked round 3 and carried our bikes over the fourth. After Rudding Lane Tony, Brian and Peter returned home via Wetherby Road, leaving Will and me to tackle the hill out of the Yorkshire Showground. Distance 32 miles. Malcolm



Medium + Ride Report



Medium + Ride Slower Section

It's not rocket science; if you have the right ingredients, you get the best result. So good company, sunny weather, a pleasant route, and two good lunch cafes, all went into providing us with a most enjoyable day out. The biggest challenges were mechanical, and for those who could, the day ended on Dave P's lawn with a beer. All most convivial. Thanks to Roy, Gavin, Gia, Rachel, Terry, and Dave P. Good to see Eric out and about, albeit not yet back on the bike. Beat that for a great Sunday out!! Dave S.



The larger medium plus group set off under a cloudless sky towards Spofforth and decided not to risk punctures on the cycle path so took a route via North and Kirk Deighton when another detour via the old A1 path was suggested to avoid Wetherby. From Wetherby the cycle path to Bramham was good except for a stretch between Boston and Bramham which really needed off road tyres! The ride through Thorner was very pleasant and a first for me. Another detour from Shadwell to Street Lane where the café stop was very pleasant except a bit chilly in the shade. Angela's local

knowledge found a traffic free and relatively flat way back to Wyke where she also regaled us with the local gossip. Next, a stunning ride along the reservoir and panoramic views as we descended towards the Pool road. Those pesky traffic lights at the bottom of Rudding were on red as usual which makes a short sharp climb up to the Travellers Rest and then that very annoying hill in the Yorkshire show ground. Overall a great ride with fab views. 42 miles. Julie E.



Away Day from Helmsley

Another Grand Day Out with deep blue skies, a gentle breeze and the sort of evenly spaced, fluffy white clouds that you used to draw when you were six years old. We were ten cyclists in total, Keith and Me, Martin and Yvonne, Monica and Dave, Sarah C and Sally C, plus Steve and Steve. The route was described as "Old abbeys and steep climbs west of Helmsley", encompassing Nunnington, Ampleforth, Byland, Old Byland and Rievaulx with the emphasis on enjoying the sights, sounds and smells of the countryside without breaking any speed records. This we achieved. It is a pretty photogenic route, so hope you like the pictures of all the old relics and

the ancient abbeys. It is hard to describe such a beautiful day and the quality of light. The only fly in the ointment was the spectre of Boltby Bank (known affectionately as "The Killer Hill") some way in to the ride. The conversation flowed and there were only minor technical hitches to sort en route – little things like brakes and flapping rear mudguards and shortly after noon we arrived at Kilburn for a lunch stop in the Tea Rooms at Mousey Thompson's furniture emporium. We managed to restrain Sarah from buying a sideboard and set about the menu instead. On the Wheel Easy spectrum of cafes, it was quite pricey but really nice, with plenty of tables and umbrellas outside to protect us from the unrelenting sunshine. We finally got to Boltby Bank base camp and each ploughed their individual furrows. We had agreed to wait for the whole team at the top, where we had to listen to a whole litany of excuses as to why *not one of us* had made it the whole way without walking – although the youngish Steves had got the closest. The reward for all this pain was the magnificent five mile descent to Old Byland and Rievaulx with fabulous views across to the Wolds. We stopped to admire gardens, streams and the magnificent Abbeys before the final (less killerish) hill out of Rievaulx and back down in to Helmsley with a total of 36 miles covered. Then Sally, Keith and Martin got covered in oil trying to persuade Sally's bike to go back on the roof of her car. The sun was still shining and the temperature had wandered up to 20 degrees and we all looked quite tanned, happy and greasy. Hope that is not the last of the summer and thanks for all the fun and laughter! Helen & Keith





Long Ride

On a bright and sunny morning the Long Ride set off towards Bedale. We had only reached Franham when Dan left us to attend to more important business. With the warm sunshine on our backs we settled into a steady touring pace through Boroughbridge and on to Topcliffe. Given the paucity of tearooms/cafes in Bedale we had a refreshment stop at The Orangery, at Aerial Extreme near Kirklington. After the stop Phil decided to return home, his excuse being he wanted to be fit for next week's mammoth ride. We proceeded to Bedale and then on to Thornton Watlass via Burrill. There was much confusion as we cycled through Masham on the way to Ripon. Is this the first Wheeleasy ride not to stop at Masham? We stopped for a breather at Grewelthorpe, where Nick went off to see his mate. Unfortunately, Nick did not give us any indication as to where his mate lived. Although we cycled slowly through Grewelthorpe we could not see either Nick or his bike, so we continued on without him. We then took afternoon tea at Ripon Spa Gardens and departed to the accompaniment of a brass band playing in the background. It was then homeward bound via a devious route to bring us to Ripley, so that we could use the Nidderdale

Greenway. Amazingly as we were cycling along we met Phil coming the other way on his bright orange Brompton. Given the recent long rides this one was described by one of the riders as a "short long ride", but quantity is not everything.

