

Sunday, August 11, 2013

Wheel Easy Ride Report 380

Short Ride Report

Four ladies on the short ride today. Myself, Sue Downes, Jane and Barbara. As we had no new riders we opted to go further than fifteen miles. We rode to Knaresborough via Forest Lane, Harrogate Road to Farnham. We found Paul at Farnham who was waiting to join the medium ride. We had to pass on the glad tidings that the medium ride had gone the other way! He agreed to join us and gallantly attend to any punctures. At Staveley we had a photo and then opted for a café stop at Boroughbridge. I don't know the name of the café but it is the one in the courtyard. The ladies were very welcoming and the scones and toasted fruit loaf went down a treat. They are now open Sundays in summer. We reversed our route back to Farnham where Paul and Jane left us for Killinghall. The remaining three rode on to Knaresborough where Barbara left for home and Sue and myself made our way back to our respective homes in Harrogate. The ride was around 25 miles and mostly flat. Very enjoyable. Nice to have a different café stop. Jean B



Medium Ride Report

Given that there was just one leader today, the team approach was the solution. It worked so well, so thank you to everybody. From a brief discussion it ensued that everyone preferred to do the suggested route the other way round. My thinking was we could get the hills out of the way and enjoy the ride through Studley Royal. However, at the mention of Clint Bank and Cut Throat Lane, another route suggestion was enthusiastically welcomed. So, we followed the Greenway to Ripley, up to the 'Drovers' and thence to Fountains. John kindly volunteered to set off with one group and assured us they wouldn't be going fast. However when we arrived at the Abbey, they looked as if they'd been there for ages! We had enjoyed an informative ride along the Greenway with our local guide, Dennis. Once at Fountains, there was some mingling of groups. The 'usual suspects' set off home, while ten of us enjoyed a break in the sun. At the top of Studley Royal, Jeremy reminded us of the free-wheeling tradition. So off we went with Jeremy eager to get to the village. Sure enough, he did, as did others, even if their pedals 'twitched' now and then. It was then a pleasant ride home in mixed weather through the rolling countryside. The consensus was that this was the better way round this route. Thanks to Sue and Neil for back marking. Alison N



Medium Plus Ride Report

Today was a day for the girls, we think at least fourteen women opted for the Kettlewell ride with variations. Eight of us accompanied by Keith and Kevin despite the weather made it to Kettlewell and we were all home before darkness fell! At Stumps Cross there were definite attempts by the leader to influence the decision to carry on by pointing out that the road we were about to travel on was obliterated by falling rain which then started battering against the windows of the café! Monica, working to get in her miles for Le Jog was dead keen as was everyone else, except Angela whose fingers had gone white with the cold, but trouper that she is she too carried on. Keith even gave me a get out saying he would lead for me! But of course I had to carry on, jollied along by the sheer enthusiasm of the group and we had an excellent day. We high fived Glynn and Eric as we arrived at Kettlewell and enjoyed the many inventive scarecrows around the village. Cycling home with the wind on our backs and some welcome sunshine, was a treat and we were able to enjoy the wonderful Wharfe valley, it really is fabulous. Malcolm texted me at 3.45 to say that he was putting the kettle on for a cup of tea. would I be home soon? At this point we had just left Burnsall! We did have a third café stop at Cavendish Pavilions where several chose the largest pieces of cake you have ever seen.

Progress then was pretty quick. Well done to everyone a wonderful group, supportive and fun, a massive achievement considering the outward conditions and thanks so much to Keith for helpful leading at the front, the middle and the back. 75 miles Gia M

The fast group membership was fairly changeable heading out of Harrogate, the steady ride somehow managed to sneak ahead by the time we reached Pannal Ash and after untangling the two groups we acquired two riders who had broken away from the other group to form the Medium Plus "Floating" ride, continuing on to Penny Pot Lane we briefly collected a member of the Alba Rosa cycling club before pointing out he was following the wrong club and sent him on his way. A grim slog would be a good description of the next leg of the ride as we made our wind-battered and rain-lashed way across the moors to Grassington, the Floating ride elected to make a pit stop at Stump Cross Caverns while the remaining riders pressed on to Grassington where we joined the long ride at the cafe stop and enjoyed our toasted teacakes while eyeing the delicious-looking fish and chips delivered to another table. On leaving Grassington we were joined by another rider who had missed the departure from Hornbeam having cycled from Ripon and we continued on to Kettlewell - a much easier run in the shelter of the valley - for a brief photo-stop around the maypole and then the return journey along the same route, waving to the steady group as we passed them making their way out to Kettlewell. The return leg via Burnsall and Beamsley was less wet and windy but made eventful by my diving into a hedge to avoid colliding with another rider and an oncoming car then having to elbow our way through a herd of cattle loitering around Barden Tower. Finally we sped into Ilkey then on to Otley and a welcome break at the Cock Pit cafe where the ride broke up as people made their various ways home. Barbara D.

After a coffee break at Stump Cross, five of us turned down the valley towards Bolton Abbey to take a slightly shorter route home. A problem arose with Yvonne's gears after the bike was blown over in high winds at Stump Cross. So at Ilkley Yvonne and Martin headed for JD Cycles where with super courteous service they fixed the bike to get us home, with the final essential tea stop at Cockpit Farm. Martin W



Long Ride Report

The long ride today was an extended version of the medium plus ride which was going to Kettlewell, a 70-plus mile ride. Eight people opted for this slightly longer route which started with a familiar slog into the wind for much of the way to Grassington where we took our first café stop, meeting up with the faster group of the medium plus ride who arrived soon after us. Then it was on for the "lovely Littondale" loop around Arncliffe where we passed another Wheel Easy member, Peter Bradley, heading in the opposite direction. After a stop to admire the view the group then headed

into Kettlewell for a quick tour of the scarecrows. As we started heading back we passed another contingent of Wheel Easy medium plus riders just arriving. After a second café stop at the Abbey Tea Rooms it was a mainly steady ride home – apart from when those few of the group were overcome with a competitive spirit in trying to ensure they kept up with/overtook a group of cyclists from Otley Cycling Club on the hill before Askwith! A good ride in good company. Jill F

