

Wheel Easy Ride Report 381

Short Ride Report

Eleven "shorties" committed themselves to a 15 or 25 mile ride. We managed to negotiate the roadworks at Leeds Road (soon to be the site of the M&S corner shop for some) and hurtled to Pannal and thence to Spofforth via the Hags. It's always a relief when the lights en route change to red at the sight of the oncoming cyclist! Light rain blighted the arrival in Spofforth but it was upward and onward to Little Ribston where Sue T (Suet?) arranged an alphabetical "shoot" outside the Chapel of Ease. Yes, we "shorties" can do posing and pouting to perfection. From this hallowed spot, we progressed to the Brethren Meeting House at Knaresborough to decide who was going where. In the event, Anne-Marie had to be back promptly and she and SueT returned to Harrogate via Abbey Road. The rest felt there was still room for more and we left to negotiate further roadworks on Chain Lane and then off to Scriven, Lingerfield, Scotton, Nidd and Ripley. Heavy rain at Lingerfield called for protection for those who had brought sou'westers, capes and brollies. By the time the delights of Ripley came into view, the sun was shining and we sat outside to drink coffee. The pace had been SO fast that we were too early for the cakes and scones at the Church but we settled for corn rather than copia elsewhere. The highlight was watching four people at an adjacent table extract and unpack their foil-wrapped sandwiches having bought one pot of tea... The Brits at their best – it meant we avoided the scon/scoan/ soon (for those of royal Scottish descent) debate! Seven of us returned to Harrogate via the Greenway – four having taken differing routes home. It was lovely to see equestrians, pedestrians and cyclists of all ages and stages happily sharing the path.





Medium Ride Report

I was without Joe as a leader and, despite having map with highlighted route, I was still a little nervous. Alison N had heroically agreed to help after leading last week alone. I shouldn't have worried as Neil took the first group and I the second, with Alison the third. However we realised at Low Bridge that the slower two groups were small enough to proceed as one, much to my relief. Dennis was a guide round the parts we decided to change and Andrew was an excellent back marker. We had a new rider, Sharon, who joined today and Kevin and Val who are recent members were with us too. We decided at Hornbeam that the Ripon coffee stop was too early and Boroughbridge would be better. Things went well until the sky darkened beyond Farnham and then the rain started. There were several stops to don rain gear with the more pessimistic (me included) bejacketed early. There was a fair amount of rain before the sun returned. As coffee was postponed we avoided Ripon centre by going through Littlethorpe and over the little canal bridge which was chosen for the photo stop. Past the Race Course towards Newby Hall and into Boroughbridge via Skelton on Ure. Dennis went home alone for Dorothy's awaiting dinner and the rest of the group tried a new coffee stop in Bouroughbridge (Chez Nous or a similar French name) and enjoyed the sunshine sitting outside. The owners were very friendly and the cakes and coffees lovely - definitely worth revisiting though the inside is a little small for a big group. Back to Farnham via the bridle way to Copgrove where I astonished Alison by realising we had just passed the turning! Home through Knaresborough - 35 miles door to door so about 32 to and from Hornbeam. Geraldine with thanks to Alison and Dennis.



Medium+ Ride Report

There were quite a lot of riders for the Medium Plus Ride, unfortunately for Sarah, trying to get them into groups was like herding cats, the chief offenders being the EGs, whose medication and tablets had not quite kicked in yet, and the realisation of where we were, this Earth, or Fullers'. Eventually a group moved off consisting of EGs and others, however this was to change as riders left and joined this group, this is how it should be as riders choose the pace they want, and it is pleasant to ride with different people. Dave S led a charge to Riccall, closely followed by Daves W and P at quite a pace (felt like 50 years ago). Lunch was taken at Riccall Green by Bill, Dave P, Gia and Howard, others tucking into roast beef and roasted potatoes in the pub. Then another group of six headed North on the cycle path to York and Wighill for the next stop, for tea and a chockey bun, (see photo). Soon to be joined by Bash, whilst Gia and Paul T carried on to Wetherby, frightened by those calories. Great ride, very friendly, (that's what we are), nice to cycle with different people and good weather. Dave P.



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Another Medium+ Ride Report

A rebellious hoard of approx 28 riders set off from Hornbeam. Thanks to Gia for leading a medium paced tribe. We were blessed with fine sunshine and a modest but helpful breeze. The slow team were joined by Sue W at Bramham. We followed the route as per website (Thanks to the Tate's for navigational support) with a small deviation to take in the historic Cawood Castle where Keith was in his element. *Cardinal Wolsey (aka Humpty Dumpty – disputed!) came to Cawood as Archbishop of York in 1530 and made himself popular with the villagers by putting right years of neglect. However, before he was installed as Archbishop in York, the Earl of Northumberland arrested him on charges of high treason; Wolsey fell ill at Leicester on his way to London, and died. He therefore fulfilled [Mother Shipton's](#) prophecy, that he would see the towers of York Minster but would never be enthroned there.*(Wikipedia) A final tea stop at the White Swan at Wighill ensured a tasty, nutritional finish to the day.(Let them know if you're passing and they'll bake extra buns and scones!) Sarah C





Long Ride Report

It took all the available paper napkins to dry the nine chairs as we departed Cobblestones Café, leaving the staff to deal with pools of water on the floor. From Greenhow to Grassington we had suffered a wind driven deluge that made a total mockery of all manufacturer's claims regarding the waterproof qualities of our jackets. But after coffee and cake we emerged to increasing sunshine and a wind that would help dry our clothes and assist up the impending hill, so no excuses. Soon after Kettlewell, where the Scarecrow festival was in full swing, we were taking off layers in warm sunshine that lasted all day. Unfortunately the climb over Kidstones took an early victim when Richard's rear derailleur arm sheared, leaving the mechanism tangled in the spokes. The bike was made fit to freewheel and scoot to the telephone in Starbottom whilst the depleted party enjoyed a climb and glorious descent down Bishopdale to Aysgarth where Eric left to return home more directly. Traversing the northern slopes of Wensleydale through Carperby, Redmire past Bolton Castle to Wensley was a delight after which more sustenance was needed at Middleham tea shop. Further defections from our party occurred at Thornton Watlass where Colin left for Northallerton and Ripon where Richard lives and had pedalled from for the early start. The remaining five returned to Harrogate around 5.15 pm, after 91 miles and only their socks to dry. Thanks to all the 9 for their company on a great trip. Peter R

