

Sunday, September 8, 2013

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 384

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### Short Ride Report

On a bright, sunny morning twelve of us set off to follow a circuitous route to Hampsthwaite. It was good to have 3 new members with us. We made our way to the Greenway via the Stray avoiding all the scooting children, pedestrians, dogs, pushchairs and so on. We agreed that the sunny autumnal morning had definitely brought everyone out! At the end of the Greenway we turned right for Killinghall rather than going into Ripley. Once in Killinghall, we found a rather muddy Crag Lane then took the track [longer and muddier than I remember] to Hollings Hill above Hampsthwaite. The views over Nidderdale to Birstwith were stunning on such a sunny morning. From there, we 'swooped' down to Sophie's. Today, the scones were exceptionally good [ maybe a '9' to those of us who are 'scone connoisseurs']. Here, five riders decided to go back the shortest route via Knox. The rest of us looked for more hills- ie West Lane and then into Harrogate by the Birk's Crag hill. A lovely ride- thanks to Jean B for helping with the group and taking the photos, to Joyce for back-marking and to Graham for seeing to the gates. Alison N



### Medium Ride Report

A good number of riders turned out on a chilly but sunny morning for a hilly ride to Darley. The fast boys and girls set off with Gordon, leaving eleven more leisurely riders to follow. After the climb to Little Alms Cliff, Max left us for a pressing engagement with a saxophone and Caroline and Sarah opted for an alternative route home after conquering Timble Hill. More hills followed, including the long climb up to Thornthwaite, then a pleasant flat stretch along the Nidd valley. At Clapham Green we intercepted Gordon's fast group, who had apparently gone for the extra-steep route out of Blubberhouses! We were relieved to arrive at Sophie's cafe in Hampsthwaite for very welcome coffee and cake, where Paul left us for home. The remaining group returned to Hornbeam via Knox, clocking up around 30 miles. Sue W.



### **Medium-Plus Ride Report**

For a Medium Plus ride advertised as Hilly, today this one seemed very hilly. I often seem to lead this ride and from either direction it is a good one - quite strenuous but on a bright day a good lung and leg-buster with excellent views to take the mind off it. Today's direction was anti-clockwise and more eventful than usual. Eleven riders started out and at least nine returned to Harrogate. We were quickly through Knaresborough, Farnham and Bishop Monkton before a quick rest at the Garden Centre on the A61 before we noticed that the eleven were now nine. Not having seen the other two since the Copgrove turn we retraced our steps to Bishop Monkton and the nine had become seven! Two riders had decided to carry on the original route, so at least that was an explanation. We couldn't find the original missing two, so re-routed through Burton Leonard to Markington and then up to Brimham Rocks. Nearing the T-junction at the top of the long uphill drag a head-count revealed that we were now six. I retraced for half a mile and found newcomer Steve with an upside down bike - not a good sign. He quickly repaired the rear puncture and we were soon all together again for the mainly downhill section to Pateley Bridge. I had speculated

on lunching in the Cattle Market Tea-Rooms. Luckily everyone had heard and used it as a rendezvous so that when we seven entered the car park, there were the other four waiting. Two went ahead again, while nine of us prepared with bacon butties or crumble for the Yorke's Folly beast. A lot of being able to conquer tough climbs is having seen them before. So knowing that Yorke's Folly has several sharp bits with comparatively easier bit in between, makes it an easier nut to crack. Well done to those who climbed it, and to those who didn't - you are now equipped with useful information for your next attempt. Now came today's real highlight. Apparently, while the Leader and Bash were half a mile to the rear an un-named car driver stopped by the waiting group and offered them an apple each from his car. So that, when the two of us caught them up, there they were with cheeks bulging from half chewed fruit - and they hadn't asked the driver for an apple for us ! Weird story which Bash and I could only accept as too ludicrous to have been invented. Quite an eventful run therefore, of 45 or so miles and some serious climbing. Very enjoyable - I expect I'll be leading it again soon, although my next outing is the considerably easier Medium ride to Almscliff Crag in the 22nd. Peter L

### **Long Ride Report**

The chilly start soon gave way to warmth and deep blue skies for another great day for riding. At least for once the early departees stayed a bit longer than sometimes is the case. Glyn and James disappeared before Bond End and also unseen by the mediums. At least Jill had said she would be leaving pre hills with Nick, once he found us. They left at Upsall Castle to search for deluxe bread in Northallerton, having had Paul and Nick setting a fast pace, tempered by Jill. Nick maybe still shaken from the car wrong way round at Boroughbridge roundabout. So just Richard, Paul and Neil to do some extra hills pre Sneck Yate that Neil had debuted on recently. Just as we began a short walk, a fast climber came by, James and in time Glyn with the British Rail Starbeck exhibit nail (crossing closed next Sunday evening). A few more 1 in 4s to Hawnby and the rated pork burgers. The invisible waiter was not to be seen today. J was understandably full of the recent Italian wedding. A lot more 1 in 4 to 6s chevrons via Rievaulx and then the relief of a descent down White Horse Bank. A few more tweaks turns and green lanes without further losses back home. 84m 4700 ft. Richard P



