

Sunday, January 5, 2014

Wheel Easy Ride Report 401

Short Ride Report

A clear and cold winter morning enticed a large turnout for the first Sunday ride of the year. The forecast of heavy rain after 12:00 pm encouraged eight people to do the short ride, with the prospect of an early return. We soon warmed up on the climb to Little Alms Cliff where a decision was taken to extend the ride a little by a visit to Sophie's in Hampsthwaite. The ride down past Menwith Hill was as lovely as ever but unfortunately one member of the party missed the right hand turn and went straight down the very steep hill into Birstwith and then straight up the very steep hill out of Birstwith. Ah well, good for the legs. The warmth and food and drink in Sophie's was very welcome on a cold day and it was an effort drag ourselves away after refuelling. At this point there was some cunning hill-avoidance planning made so we decided to return to Harrogate via the Greenway instead of through Knox and climbing Knox Hill. After taking Malcolm's short-cut through Killinghall, we had an uneventful ride back to Harrogate. A cold but exhilarating 24 miles, with no early return but no early rain. Al D



Medium Ride Report

Apparently it is an over vigorous jet stream that has come steaming across the Atlantic, causing all the mayhem on our west coast. At the moment it has not got past the Pennines, nor slid up the Vale of York so we had a rather pleasant winter's day. No wind and quite bright – and the same could be said of our cyclists. The usual large cohort of Medium riders divided into three and headed off briskly, destination Boroughbridge, because rain was forecast at round about 1.00 p.m. and we needed to squeeze in a coffee stop. Welcome to Matt on his first ride with Wheel Easy and he discovered that he and Maurice were both members of Nidd Valley Runners, which went some way towards explaining their ability to keep at the head of the peloton at quite a nifty pace. In the café Bash produced a miniature bottle of Port Brandy from his pocket and a few of us had a small slurp because he said it would help us go faster up hill. Memo to Bash: It didn't! Still anticipating rain, we continued to move swiftly on, powered mainly by fat rascals and coffee, through the Dunsforths, Arkendale, Ferrensby, Farnham, Knaresborough and home. Jill only had

to put me right once – it was one of those, “I think it’s right and then left” – “No, I think it’s left and then right” moments. Jill won. Thanks to Steve who did most of the back marking but we all had a go – I think I did a bit at one point. And finally, Caroline has lent me a lovely book to read, “Boy Racer”, the Mark Cavendish biography. My cup runneth over Keith’s group of nine, eight and then seven were slightly slowed when Peter had a puncture just outside Bishop Monkton. However, we enjoyed the hospitality and bacon sandwiches in Tasty Snacks before Paul B escaped for an early finish and the remaining seven worked our way back to Harrogate before any wind and rain arrived. A joyful New Year’s ride with good banter. Keith and Helen.







Medium+ Ride Reports

Initially the ride had two leaders ie Paul T and Dave P, however thanks to Martin and Gia also volunteering we had four. This meant we had the luxury of four small groups of four/five, no cafe shock and less impatient motorists. Right said Paul T organise yourselves into groups regarding speed, cafe cravings, friends/acquaintances, did he say age ?, well that sorted the EG`s out. First group away was Martin, no messing !, however he seemed to have chosen a group based on looks and speed. Four ladies and one Martin, we never saw that coming., how did he manage that ?. Closely followed by a sort of EG type group, Bill, Dave P, John, Rob and Terry C, but unfortunately for us no ladies could be seen in front, despite frantic pedallings of our aged legs. Down the Greenway, up on to the Ripley ridge before the swoop down Watergate and Fountains top cafe. While having our coffee in came Martin accompanied by Monica, Debbie, Debbs and Yvonne (to keep an eye on him). How had we got past them?, simple really, we got on to the Greenway via ASDA they had gone via the Stray. However one of our group(who shall be nameless, but it begins with J) risked life and limb by suggesting that it could be due to a feminine trait of conversing long and often. The escape committee got him on his bike and heading for Skelton on Ure. At Boroughbridge the weather still looked promising and a diversion was made to Roecliffe, despite Bill views on the forthcoming weather, off went the four with Bill at the rear, thats not a position for Bill who soon was soon Tete le course, on to Burton Leonard, the Ripon Rowel (stile and footbridge), Nidd, Ripley and back on the Greenway to Harrogate. In to Harrogate before 2-00pm, no rain, we had actually seen a tiny patch of blue sky. Mileage around 42miles carpark to carpark. A good winters days cycling. Dave P

Eighteen riders opted for the hilly ride to Fountains and Brimham. Martin and Gia offered to help Dave and myself lead, so this gave us the opportunity to cycle in small groups. The route took us along the Greenway to Ripley, Markington and Fountains Abbey where we decided to continue onto Brimham and stop for refreshments at Sophie`s in Hampsthwaite. A great 35 mile ride. Paul





Long ride Report

With due regard to the weather forecast, ten worthy souls made a prompt departure from Hornbeam, soon to be joined by Nick. Despite having Eric with us, and also despite passing Pilmoor Cottages, home of the mad cyclist-chasing dog, Coxwold was made in quick time where a unanimous democratic decision was taken to take lunch here. A loop of our intended ride was deleted and we hitailed for home via Easingwold ahead of the impending storm. A very pleasant 54 miles. Thanks to Phil, Steve, Dave, Eric, Dan, Nick, Glyn, Jill, Richard and Ian. Dave S.



