

Sunday, January 19, 2014

Wheel Easy Ride Report 403

Short Ride Report

Happily all our group of 8 short riders were up for my favourite route and café, including Ian (plus brand new bike) who we welcomed on his first WE outing, and David on his second. So we headed out to Beckwithshaw and up to Stainburn Woods car park, where Kevin, Val and Ian were waiting for the rest of us. By now there was a steady drizzle and enough mist to deprive us of the usual wonderful moorland views. This stayed with us most of the way to Menwith Hill and down to Sophie's, perfect therapy for those of us who were feeling cold and wet. By the time we emerged the sun was beginning to do the same, so it was a lovely ride back up Hollins Lane, left at Killinghall School along the lane to Ripon Road, and finally along the Greenway busy with lots of families on bikes, walkers and runners. 25 miles, a bit long for a short ride but at a nice relaxing pace enjoyed by all. Pictured are Ian, David, me, Lynda N, Sue, Lynda M, Kevin and Val. Malcolm



Medium Ride Report

A dull morning, but not cold or windy, and the forecast promised some sunshine later. The medium ride split into 2, with Monica and David taking the faster sub-group, whilst Geraldine and I took the slower group of 9 en route to Follifoot, Spofforth, Wetherby, Boston Spa and back via Sicklinghall and Burn Bridge. The Harland Way was very muddy, the bikes got pretty clattered up by the time we got to Wetherby the first time, and there was an unfeasibly large amount of dog shit in the underpass under the A1 on the cycle path from Wetherby to Thorpe Arch. We stopped by the toilets in Boston Spa for bananas and such-like, and then on to the cycle-path by the A1 and back into Wetherby. Dennis and Julie (apologies if I have got the name wrong) left us at this point and we sought out the North Street Deli, where we found the other medium ride sub-group sitting outside having their refreshments (this is mid-January, remember) as it was rather full inside. The remaining 7 of us tried the delights Morrisons, and then headed towards Sicklinghall. At least the back marker, Geraldine, rather surprisingly headed correctly towards Sicklinghall, whereas the sub-group leader (i.e. I/me) went the wrong way towards Linton. The mistake was quickly corrected and we reached Kirkby Overblow, where Paul B, Brian, Brigitte and Sally went straight on towards

the ring road and Rudding, and the remaining 3 went along Walton Head Lane and back through Burn Bridge. The promised sunshine arrived just as we got back. About 30 miles Clive PS.



Medium Ride Report 2

8 riders led by David and me as back marker set off at a brisk pace from Hornbeam towards Spofforth and Thorp Arch. We all anticipated the Harland Way would be very muddy as indeed it was. It was probably just as well that we sat outside at North Street Deli in Wetherby, as the

owner wouldn't have appreciated our well muddied cycling apparel inside. During our convivial chat we found out that Daniel was on his first Wheel Easy ride and had come up all the way from Bath to join us. After that it was a pleasant ride back via Sicklinghall and Kirkby Overblow. We said goodbye to James there and continued on to Burn Bridge. Chris, Simon, Geoff, Paul and Daniel gradually went their separate ways home from there on. Thanks to all for pleasant company and a good ride.

About 28 miles Monica



Medium+ Ride Report

Great ride with sunshine and warmth and wonderful views over Thruscross. Five of us turned down Sarah's offer of an extra loop, but having climbed several steep hills we were content to follow Hoodstorth Lane, reach Duck Street then sail down with a following wind to Sophie's. 35 miles, thank you Sarah for leading us through the mist and drizzle and finding the sun for us. Gia

How many Sundays in January can you enjoy 5 1/2 hours on the bike (including café stop) and still arrive home in sunshine? At one point John felt the need to sing...could it have been, 'A Bright Golden Haze on the Meadow?' Terry B, stepping in for the 'off-games' Sue (we need you back soon) led away the faster boys and girls, from a dreary and dismal Hornbeam. 9 less ambitious riders, with Gia as an excellent pace setter, dashed a spin to Swinsty and Fewston Reservoirs - circulating the blood and by Thruscross and the sneaky ascent of Hoodstorth Lane we were all tingly warm. Rob, Terry and Sarah ventured an additional loop through Summerbridge and Hartwith Bank which probably didn't add to the mileage as most of it seemed vertical! The remaining riders opted the sensible route to Sophie's. A super day with good company. Thanks to all. Sarah C



Long Ride Report

Overcast and damp with a promise of better things to come in the afternoon, would be no description of the spirit of the 10 long riders who gathered today at Hornbeam. Richard guided us through Harrogate to Knox by another of his 'special' routes which managed to reduce our time on the A59 to about 100 yards. Perhaps he should be in charge of the TDF route; there would be no disruption to main road traffic for the naysayers to complain about. Somewhere around Brimham we joined by Dan who managed to get out for the full day and suggested a very interesting ride concept – the full length of the Nidd – Park Rash to Beningbrough. Sounds like a good one for the summer. Grewelthorpe was mentioned in the ride description as the destination. Apparently there is now a café in Grewelthorpe, although I have never tried it. I'm simply not brave enough to take a long ride so close to Masham and not stop there for lunch so, in the end we bypassed Grewelthorpe and visited Johnny Baghdads in Masham town square. The return from Masham was by Well, West Tanfield, Ripon and Knaresborough. In all about 62 miles – pretty good going for mid-January.

