

Sunday, January 26, 2014

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 404

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Please note that despite madam chair (i.e. Me!) being in the photo, I claim not to be amongst the heroes and heroines who actually rode today.

My only claim was to arrive at the start, introduce our intrepid leaders, stand in the bike shelter and admire the Wheel Easy resolve to ride whatever the weather.

I then retreated and went to church with Malcolm! Work that one out! Gia

### Short Ride Report

Despite St Paul Hudson's forecast for today predicting that the nation would awaken to torrential rain, the skies from my window looked clearish and not a drop of rain to be seen. By 9 10am, things had changed. Waterproof trousers donned and heigh ho, off we go! Six of us huddled under the bike shelter at Hornbeam to be joined by Gia , Paul and what is this? Eric in civvies – no sign of a cycle clip even. Eric declared himself a wimp and I have to say wimping out seemed a very good idea. After all, I had donned the gear and covered a mile so, feeling rather relieved, Linda and I set forth to accompany Poddler Queen Caroline as she delivered Rides rosters (rosti?) to John Wood and Alison Noble. By this time, the rain was becoming increasingly wetter and windy gusts added to the general feeling of discomfort. Having left Caroline to cycle to Killinghall to deliver Mr Blackham's instructions, Linda and I cycled to our respective warm, dry homes. It goes without saying that we were full of admiration for fellow WE-ers who were about to set off for 30 miles of endeavour. We managed 3 miles of unparalleled wimping. Thank you, Eric. Sue D



### **Medium Plus Ride Report**

Question 1 : what is quorum for a Wheel-Easy led ride ? Is it a) the five riders who began the Medium Plus Ride b) the four riders who sensibly cut short the ride at Sicklinghall and headed for Wetherby and home or c) the Ride Leader who completed the course.

Question 2 : imagine you are out on a cycle ride, soaking wet, cold and in horizontal gale conditions do you a) grin and bear it b) reply to attempted conversations with a grunt c) remark on the pleasures of cycling , especially the fine vistas across the landscape. (Yes, Gill you did say that)

Of 10 riders assembled at Hornbeam, 5 combined the scheduled rides and made it to Sicklinghall via Burn Bridge, Kirby Overblow and the exposed ridge top road. Bad as that was, my worst weather of the ride was after Collingham having climbed Jewitt Lane to run smack into a ferocious headwind with sleet in it. Horrible. After considerable debate amongst the party, I persuaded myself to carry on into the tempest towards Thorner and then dropped down to The New Inn (formerly Bracken Fox) at Scarcroft then past the Golf Clubs to Slaid Hill. Roundhay Park held no allure, so I skipped along Wigton Lane with the wind starting to help me, via the very muddy ex-road skirting the back of Leeds Grammar School to Eccup Reservoir, Weardley, Kirby Overblow (again), Rudding and home. It's not every day you see a red kite land on the A61 and ascend trailing a whole, but mangled, road-kill rabbit 20 yards in front of you, but that helped make the ride worth the frozen toes, soaking clothes and dirty bike. Esprit de Corps ? Honour of the Club ? Sheer bloody minded-ness or stupidity ? All of the above combined with the need to get some cycling practice. 33 miles and home by 12:45. Definitely felt the endorphins kick in as I entered my drive. If the pictures get supplied of this very wet event, Paul is the one behind the camera ! I hope everyone got home without mishap. Peter L