

Sunday, April 27, 2014

Wheel Easy Ride Report 417

Short Ride

Today was my first attempt at leading a Harrogate ride and so I was quite relieved to see our group was rather small and select -

Eight riders set off towards Penny Pot lane, enjoying the intense beauty of Spring colours. At the junction of Penny Pot lane we lost our only male rider. He split from us eager to take a different route. Being a Football fan he was keen to get back in time to see the Liverpool football match. Although there were rumours that he was finding it difficult to keep up! One man down we carried on down to Hampsthwaite - a stop at Sophie's was a must for our usual coffee and scone. Here we picked up an extra Wheel Easy member, Roy, who was out on his own but decided he'd join us back to Harrogate. We were happy now as we were back to eight riders and had swapped one male rider for another.

Fed and watered, we set off up Clint Bank and then right onto the Greenway back to Harrogate via Ripley. This part of the ride was such a treat with bluebells galore and we then unexpectedly we encountered the occasional pony and trap trotting along the greenway in the opposite direction - so lovely! As usual, as we got close to home folks split off to go their own way. Firstly, at Bilton Lane Jean and Roy left us. At the Asda junction Diane went her own way. Lastly at Starbeck, Heather left as well, leaving me, Sue W, Ruth and Lynda to make our way back to Hornbeam. Thanks to everyone for making my first ride as leader so enjoyable. Lynda N

Medium Ride

There were so many takers for the medium ride today that we sorted ourselves in to four groups and somehow I found myself leading the first group out of the trap. This involved a speedy trip to Spa Gardens collecting Denis en route who had a mechanical. (This mechanical did not slow him down) I have never cycled to Ripon so quickly and decided on a more leisurely return suggesting that my group could get home by themselves. A look of sheer terror crossed a few faces but one brave soul assured them that he knew the route.

I joined Sarah's group, meeting four tricycles including a tricycle tandem out on a ride and some nippy carriage driving through Hollybank Woods. Great ride, thanks to both groups. Gia M





There were quite a few takers for the Medium Ride this morning, so we split into four smaller groups. Eight riders in our group cycled to Low Bridge where Alison joined us to make nine. A pleasant ride to Ripon and all agreed it was good not to have the wind to battle with today. We decided to go to Fountains for our stop, as Sally sensibly said we could reward ourselves after the climb up through the Deer Park. Gordon, Alison, Chris and Dennis left us before coffee and while the rest of us were discussing the route back, Max said he would leave us at the turn to Markington. So that just left an exclusive ladies group of four – Liz, Alison, Sally and I and we enjoyed both good cycling and conversation through Bishop Thornton, Hampsthwaite and home via Knox. The emergence of the bluebells was noted and we thought they would be particularly nice in the next few weeks. Thanks to all for good company as usual. 35 miles, Monica W



A group of four perfectly honed athletes set out on a slow demure ascent of the glorious route to Ripon, Studley Park, Fountains, and all points northish. We followed the route almost to the letter, stopped for a brief comfort break and snack, met and chatted to various parts of other groups, bought Julie's liquorice in Ripley, and finished the ride down an initially blocked Greenway. The high spot of the ride was, however, our photo shoot with a young barn owl playing with its carer and two sleek raptor like birds in a garden on the outskirts of Ripon. A good ride and jolly company. Welcome back to Joanne, Sue D, and Julie after your winter lay-offs of varying lengths and reason, you all did remarkably considering your lack of practice! 33 miles which at one point seemed to be near vertical! Caroline G



Medium Plus Ride

Yorke's Folly was never going to be a popular ride, but it was as if there had been an outbreak of the plague in the Medium Plus car park as potential riders quickly melted away to the Medium camp. In the end seven of us set off and after losing Dennis with a mechanical problem in Knaresborough, we were down to six. We made steady progress through Markington to Brimham Rocks and onwards to Teacups in Pateley Bridge where the consensus was that prices had risen sharply. Well-fortified with bacon rolls etc, we shot up the Folly and headed home through Hampsthwaite. All agreed it had been a good morning for cycling and although rain had threatened at times, it held off. 45 miles, David W.

Long Ride

Eight riders turned out to participate in the Long Ride. The ride went according to plan with Hartwith Bank proving to be as challenging as always. At Laverton, Mark and James cycled on ahead of the main group directly to Masham, at Kirkby Malzard Martin left us to return home, this left five riders to complete the Ringbeck part of the ride. At Masham we met up with Mark and James who decided to return to Harrogate. The famous five continued with the ride as planned i.e. Ripon via Snape and Carthorpe. Although we seemed to be surrounded by mist and dark threatening clouds we only experienced a few drops of rain riding from Wath to Ripon. From Ripon it was back to Harrogate via Bishop Monkton, Ripley and the Greenway. A challenging and enjoyable ride was had by all. Peter J.

