

Sunday, May 4, 2014

Wheel Easy Ride Report 418

Short Ride

Welcome to new members, Linda and Sally, and returning "Wheelies", Lorraine and Andy. Nine "Shorties" headed right from Hornbeam along the lovely path through "Hookie" Woods and onto the Showground. Bob took the lead up Rudding Lane and we re-assembled outside the caravan site entrance. We then threw ourselves on the mercy of the drivers on the bypass and headed safely into Follifoot and on to Spofforth for a pose and pout beside the Memorial Gardens. By this time a little sunshine appeared as we carried on to Little Ribston and thence to the gates of the Meeting House. The decision to take coffee at Marigold was made and we arrived to sample their delights – Diane's chocolate cake looked yummy it has to be said. Bob received two biscuits with his filter coffee while others were served biscuitless – conclusion; he was having a large one... After some discussion re the route back to Harrogate, Marion, Andy, Sally and Lorraine left to take an alternative route home and the rest of us reached Christ Church Stray before Bob left us for home. Lynda and I returned new Linda to Hornbeam where she was to drive home to Wetherby leaving her husband to cycle with a "BIG" ride. The roadworks at Scott's Corner remain tricky but eventually we reached the Leadhall home straight.

A very pleasant 16.78 miles. Thank you to Diane for backmarking. Sue D.



Medium Ride

It was drizzling slightly, but nothing serious, when we set off to Hornbeam. 24 people opted for the medium ride, a route less often travelled, south towards Leeds. I notice that we did the very same route almost exactly one year ago, when Alun fell off and (probably) broke his arm. We remarked that he chose not to join the sub-group led by Geraldine and me this year...The faster and fitter went off with Ian Newall, and the third sub-group went with Paul Tindle. We went through Hookstone Woods to the Showground and down the hill, past Rudding to the ring road. Instead of going straight over towards Follifoot as we often do, we turned right on to the fairly busy ring road and rode uphill to the turn off to Kirby Overblow. Through KO and down the hill to

join the A61 and south down the A61 over Harewood Bridge. There was surprisingly little traffic. Right towards Otley and then second left towards the infamous Weardly Bank. It was quite a tough climb and one or two of the group took the sensible approach and walked up past the well-named 'Burden Hill House Farm', but the views at the top were excellent, and the group photo was taken on the seat there. Past the New Inn towards Eccup reservoir, and I missed a left turn towards the reservoir (as I did last year), but the rest of the group knew where they were going, and we crossed the dam wall and carried on up to Harrogate Road. Over the A61 and round the back of the Grammar School on to Wigton Lane where we admired some of the architectural excess (everyone to his or her own taste, I know...) and on to Slaid Hill. We had decided at the outset not to bother with Roundhay Park so we went left towards East Keswick, with surprisingly few 4x4s racing to the golf club. Right at the T-junction after EK towards Linton and then left towards Wetherby (more architectural excess, but rather more tasteful) where we decided to try the café in the Shambles, as we were too many for the North Street Deli. After good refreshments, we took a vote and decided to abandon the official route back through Sicklinghall, Kirby Overblow and Burn Bridge, and went on the Harland Way to Spofforth. We stopped to admire a shepherdess and sheep dog moving some sheep (including the shepherdess kicking one particularly recalcitrant beast) and met up with Paul Tindle's group in Follifoot. Ridding and the Showground hill completed the ride.

About 33 fairly hilly miles. Clive P-S.



Subsidiary Medium Ride

We set off from Hornbeam with six members as the slow group to be followed by the slower and slowest groups. On Weardley Bank we came across the slower group who had deviated from the official route and so ended up ahead of us. This was repeated a few miles later when I attempted to deviate from the official route and, once more, ended up behind the slower group. By this time half our group elected to stay with the slower group and Jeff, John and I rode on together. At Linton, John decided to head home leaving Jeffrey and I to visit Costas in Wetherby where we were joined a while later by Paul who had decided that Morrisons was not for him. Very much a sea saw ride. Ian N.

Welcome to Susan, Joanne and Jamie who joined us for their first Sunday ride. Susan is doing the Coast to Coast ride next weekend so Weardley Bank was good practice for her. We kept bumping into Ian's group and everytime he passed us my group became larger! As there were so many of us we decided to go to Morrisons for coffee. I'm afraid I abandoned my group and headed off to Costa. I expect I will have to undergo disciplinary procedures. However, in my defence I did return to Morrisons to then lead the group back to Harrogate. A great ride and good company. Thanks to Sue for back marking and to Joe and Geraldine for stepping in to lead a group. Paul



Medium+ Ride

Eight of us set off into light drizzle that soon stopped and having promised ourselves an early coffee at Boroughbridge were disappointed to find the cafe at the bottom of the High Street next to the hairdresser was shut for a week. No matter, to make up for it we found some steam engines, stopped for a photo and then promptly lost Yvonne. Re-united at Cafe Nero with coffee and Pain au Chocolat we were set in good spirits for a climb up to Galphay where we caught up with Sarah's group - some coffee eh? After that a spirit of independence infused the group as we left the official route and headed cross country to Markington, Ripley and homeward. 43 miles in good weather and good company. Martin W.



Sarah Med+ Ride

Weather better than anticipated saw 23 medium plus riders assemble at Hornbeam. Thanks to Dave Wbr. for stepping in to lead the faster group and Martin W. for leading a more sedate (cronky knee) group. The first part of the ride followed the suggested web site route through Boroughbridge and to Spa Gardens where we paused for a refreshing brew. Dave Wtn. then re-lived childhood memories taking us through new territory from Galphay, through Winsksley, Low and High Grantley - a lovely route. Hebden Hill varied the pulse rate for all before we sauntered through Clint Wood where the blue bells, at their absolute peak delighted the eye. Welcome return to Rob, whose eye had more of a glint for the Ripley ice cream. Terry proved top man as back marker - thank you. Another super day for Wheel Easy with everyone contributing at some point to a lovely ride. Thank you. Sarah C.





Very Long Ride

A memorable Ride – It was with some trepidation that I approached Hornbeam at 08:30. The combination of an early start, a poor weather forecast, an alternative long ride and 3 regular riders advising that they were unavailable, caused me to imagine that nobody else would turn up. Of course I had forgotten about the wonderful Wheel-Easy effect and I found 5 riders waiting for me to arrive. The ride went smoothly all the way to Hutton-Le-Hole, about 48 miles by our chosen route, arriving at 12:15 for our first well-earned café stop. The route back to Harrogate was altered

slightly to go by Terrington and Easingwold. We stopped for a second cuppa at the post office in Terrington and then dragged our bodies up the well known bank. Easingwold seemed to take an age to reach, a definite sign that energy levels were flagging, and of course Easingwold is a desert on a Sunday. We trudged onwards over Aldwark Bridge and then reached an unexpected oasis at Great Ouseburn. It was Open Gardens Day and the village was stocked with cakes, sandwiches and tea. The kind ladies were more than happy to furnish a group of hungry cyclists with mountains of food as everything was winding up for the day.

We got back to Harrogate at about 6 o'clock having managed to increase the mileage to the magic 100. The weather had been dry and mild, the spring scenery wonderful, the café stops great and the Wheel-Easy cycling camaraderie marvellous. A truly memorable day! Phil.





Long Ride

The Long Ride consisted of those riders not participating in the "100 mile Long Ride", and as such 4 riders departed Hornbeam with Grassington as a destination. The riders had to contend with a strong headwind all the way to Grassington. Half way along Duck Street Glyn decided to return to Hornbeam as he was "out of condition" due to a 5 week lay-off. Mark left the group at Green How due to other commitments, leaving PCJ and Robert to continue to Grassington. At Grassington the weather improved and so we decided to complete the ride as planned returning to Harrogate via Embsay, Ilkley, Otley and Stainburn. Peter J.