

Sunday, May 25, 2014

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 421

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### Short Ride

Thank you the thirteen Short riders who nobly opted for the longer of the two rides I had proposed –

Hornbeam > Forest Moor > Low Bridge > Abbey Road > Wetherby Rd > Scriven > Lingerfield  
Scotton > Brearton > Nidd > Ripley coffee at Ripley > Greenway > Claro Rd > Stray > Hornbeam 19 miles

Sarah E-M very kindly agreed to back-mark and Joe equally equably assumed a midway position. Thus we hurtled swiftly to Lingerfield where we re-grouped to allow for a group of eight slick Shorties to speed ahead in a bid to beat the noonday rain. In the event, the remaining six riders arrived slightly ahead of their faster contemporaries to indulge in coffee/ skons; scoans at the café in Ripley. They had taken a slightly longer route along Knaresborough Road and into Ripley. Very good discussions took place at the two tables. Father and son, Bob and Mark, spoke of their intention to do a 500 mi cycle to raise money for research into Prostate Cancer – a cause very close to their hearts. The two delightful ladies at the other table – so sorry, it's an age thing re names - are also undertaking a week's cycling in Tanzania next year to raise funds for research into women's cancers. Joe, who worked in Dar es Salaam for two years, instantly offered lessons in Swahili. So – *ema bahati*, ladies and *hakuna matata!* (Apologies from self and Google, Joe!) The conversation ranged from the complexity of reading the voting paper for the recent Euro Parliament election to the percentage of personalised number plates owned in the UK to the treatment of a bite on Skipton Linda's leg. All good WE fun until the rain started and we bid a hasty retreat to the Greenway. Monica attempted minor saddle surgery with an Allen key but pronounced it not the correct gauge and womanfully rode on. Help was promised by Sarah and eventually they pedalled away to Sarah's workshop. Various routes home were taken in order to dry and relax! Sue D





### **Medium Rides**

The Wheel Easy 'Champagne Moment' for May was awarded on today's ride - but first things first. Eight of us set out, in the second of two groups, hoping that the forecast was wrong and that we wouldn't get drenched. We were dry at Kirkby Overblow, and still dry at Collingham. Light rain arrived along Jewitt Lane and stayed with us until Bramham, where Alison and Gordon left us to take in an additional loop. Sue T. left us at Wetherby, preferring to press on rather than stop at North Street Deli. This left – appropriately enough given later events – a Famous Five, Marion, Nicky, Graham, Al and your correspondent. After Wetherby it was, it has to be said, quite wet. We made our way towards Spofforth, via Kirk Deighton, Keith having warned us that, following the torrential rain, the Wetherby-Spofforth cycle path had just been re-classified as a river. And then it happened. Al's wonderful-looking new Sabbath, out on its first ride, got a puncture. It proved difficult to find the hole in the inner tube, and Graham suggested putting it in a puddle. There was no shortage of large puddles to choose from. Al did exactly that, and the tell-tale bubbles appeared straight away. A deserving winner, I'm sure you will agree. I'd like to report that Al then made a paste out of stinging nettles, rubbed a couple of sticks together to make a fire, heated the paste and applied it to the hole, and then cycled a further 70 miles in driving rain just to check that it had held properly. But, this being real life, it was clear that there was a defect in the tube, so he used his spare, and soon enough we were back on our way. We were all wet through by the end, but happy that we had come out rather than wimped out. Distance: about 30 miles. Index of moral superiority over those who stayed at home: 10. Squelchy sock index: 10. Justin



The medium riders were a leaderless rabble to begin with but Keith and Justin didn't quite step back fast enough so found themselves at the front of two cheerful groups heading out to Burn Bridge, Kirkby Overblow, Collingham and Bramham. Keith's group contained Helen, Fiona and Martin, Jen, Maura, Peter and Jill. En route to Bramham, we crossed with the Medium Plus group, heading in the opposite direction – a fine example of good route management! At Bramham there was a democratic discussion about where to go next, with the favoured route being the cycle path along the A1 straight to Wetherby and the Gourmet Café in the Shambles. The rain had just started, so we congratulated ourselves on the pristine timing of our early lunch stop. Incidentally, the café has now been carpeted, so it is much cosier and quieter than it used to be, even though it was a busy Bank Holiday Sunday. The nice lady owner gave our leader a clip round the ear for mentioning Morrison's within her earshot.

Actually, it was still raining quite heavily when we exited the café for the last leg so we opted to stay on the main road, through Kirk Deighton to Little Ribston, then left to Spofforth and the usual route home, using the cycle path from the Showground to Hornbeam. Everyone remained in good spirits and even the rain was of the nice, soft, gentle summer sort that nobody minds (!).

Thanks to Jill for taking our picture and to everyone else too for a really friendly, jolly day out --- and the on board computer indicated we had covered 31 miles. Helen



### **Medium+ Ride**

Eighteen riders were lingering in the Med+ Ride car park this morning, but were not showing any particular enthusiasm for actually setting off. After a bit of bullying, three "fast men" were despatched, and to my great surprise they turned right on the way out of the car park. As leader, I felt that I should confidently lead the rest off and dutifully followed the advance party. Trouble was, they were out of sight, and I did not know the way ("some leader" was heard to be muttered), and before I knew it, I was lost. That's within a couple of hundred yards of leaving home!

Fortunately, my loyal group rescued, and educated me, and off we tootled down the new cycle path to the Showground. Usual route to Wetherby, via Follifoot etc. and on to Bramham, no probs, other than muttering from my co-leader who was backmarking. Should've gone with the fast lot was heard to be discretely whispered.

Nice to pass the Medium group going the other way before we caught our "fast" section who had been smitten with tech issues, and the of course the rain.

The only burning question now was "How far is it to the loo?"

Several eating establishments presented themselves to us on Street Lane, and as you can see from our photo, the erstwhile leader enjoyed a hearty lunch of smoked salmon (oh la la).

The rest, as they say, is history, and we arrived back at Hornbeam shortly after two.

Another very pleasant ride had been experienced. Thanks to all. Dave S



### **Long Ride**

Five riders set off from Hornbeam heading for Castle Howard, but increased to six when Nick joined us in Knaresborough. We made good progress and were within 5 miles of Sheriff Hutton when the rain set in. From there on in it rained more or less on and off, but mainly on until we were on our way back to Boroughbridge. As we were approaching Castle Howard PCJ's chain decided to part company with his bicycle. But armed with a link extractor, a quick link, and Eric's know-how and strength, a repair was quickly undertaken. No specific cafe had been identified as

a refreshment stop but by now we were all soaked through so a stop at Castle Howard was called for, and we ended up at The Yorkshire Arboretum. At this point Peter L left to see some folks in York and the rest ploughed on to Boroughbridge. By now a brisk head wind had developed making the ride back to Boroughbridge that bit harder. At Boroughbridge Jill F set off for home while the remaining four riders headed for Morrison's for some additional refreshment. The last leg of the ride was undertaken in sunshine which went some way to drying us out. Peter J.

