

Sunday, June 1, 2014

Wheel Easy Ride Report 422

Short Ride

2 groups, a speedy and a not so speedy, (14 in total), set off from Hornbeam Park for the short ride led by D. We made our way to the Bilton old railway line via Claro Road, and pedalled onto Ripley along The Nidderdale Greenway. From Ripley onto Brearton, Scotton, Lingerfield and Scriven through quiet roads and beautiful rolling countryside. Knaresborough for coffee by the river for those who needed to indulge, before the hilly haul back into Harrogate, by various routes of their choice.

A pleasant 21 miles. Thanks to our 2 ride leaders who stepped up at short notice on the day! Much appreciated by the group. S.E.M

Medium Ride

What a brilliant cycling day to start June with, especially after last Wednesday`s wet one. We had thirteen riders for the Medium ride, of 30 miles (but quality ones) in and out of Wharfedale and the Washburn Valley (funny how Washburndale does not seem to sound quite right).

We split in to two groups with Sarah Cross (a lady of the hills), very kindly stepping in to lead a slightly quicker group (no rushing on this ride), and Alison and Dave P leading a slower group with some EG`s with their accompanying aches and pains..

First stop Little Armscliffe or Almys Crag for a team photo, by now two groups had naturally formed in terms of speed/pace, this usually happens over this distance. Next stop Fewston Reservoir car park and if needed comfort a stop (EG`s get a mention again). Then that narrow climb up to Timble, though some choose to bypass Timble (their names were noted, and lines and detention will be given). Then the steep climb up to the ridge, the magnificent views making it all worthwhile, before the exhilarating swoop down in to Askwith and on to Cockpit Farm Cafe for Caffeine and Calories. (and very good it was).

After which the slower seven comprising Allison, Al, Bash, Bill, Dave P, Roy and Sally diverted from the set route. Instead of taking the B6451 out of Otley to Bland Hill, we turned right at Farnley, down to Lindley Bridge, up to Lindley and Stainburn Moor Forest, a much more scenic and quieter road, again with magnificent scenery making the climbs all worthwhile. Some might say who is he trying to convince, himself or others. A superb ride in scenery and weather, with the lungs, limbs and joints of the EG`s managing to stay the course. It goes without saying, being a Wheel Easy ride the company was good. Dave P





Medium Plus Ride

Large numbers had turned up at Hornbeam on a beautiful sunny, windless morning, and about 30 opted for the medium plus ride, a gentle, flat route to Large Easingwold (compared to a bit of a stinker medium ride). We sub-divided into groups, Terry Barker kindly agreeing to lead a faster sub-group, and Geraldine and I led the slowest, a total of eight in ours. The weather couldn't have been better as we set off through the woods to the Showground and across Wetherby Road, through some more woods and then along Forest Moor Road to Low Bridge, where three EGs were

waiting for other EGs. Freed of the constraints of being back-marker (something which doesn't come naturally to her) Geraldine sped on ahead, surprisingly in the right direction...

On along the usual way to Farnham, Ferrensby and Arkendale, across the A1 and on to Great Ouseburn. Lots of cyclist out, lots of yellow bikes along the roadside, including a very amusing one with a 'cyclist' sprawled over a hedge with his yellow steed which had ploughed into it. We arrived in Easingwold to find the faster sub-groups just about to leave after having had porridge in the excellent Curious Table café. Caroline and Max set off back a little earlier than the remaining six of us, and they must have made good progress, as we did not catch them up till the outskirts of Boroughbridge. Back via Minskip, Staveley and Farnham, through Knaresborough and along Bogs Lane. Geraldine and I stopped to look at a campervan that a friend of Max's is selling, so we hope everyone made it back to Hornbeam or home safely. Well done, Caroline, for keeping going. About 46 miles. Joe S.

Medium Plus Fast Group

The most notable thing about the ride was the weather- probably the best day of the year so far, offering clear views of the White Horse and across the Vale of York. Paul the vet stopped to examine a fledgling which Barbara had rescued from the middle of the road and the verdict was that he seemed OK! The group arrived at the cafe stop in Easingwold where the staff were extremely pleasant and helpful serving drinks and sandwiches to everyone on the village green as the outside tables were already taken.

Terry did NOT get any punctures, Glyn got a bee in his bonnet but did NOT get stung, Terry's top was NOT from Morrisons!!

Barbara 'chickened out' near Boroughbridge (went to visit some friends new chicks on a nearby poultry farm).

We arrived back in Harrogate in good time to enjoy the rest of the afternoon. Distance 46 miles, average speed 16.2 mph! Julie E

Long Ride

Swaledale Clockwise

A choice of long rides was on offer – long and tough (clockwise) or long and tougher (anti clockwise)- Nine sensible riders opted for clockwise on a perfect cycling morning. Our first puncture occurred at the Army Foundation College on Penny Pot lane where we also joined by Nick for an all too brief guest appearance. The ride continued to Grassington in two groups meeting conveniently at the car park and then carried on to Buckden for our first café stop.

The ride along upper Wharfedale was stunning, the climb up Fleet Moss lung burstingly hard and the descent to Hawes was fearsome. No rest at Hawes just straight on to Buttertubs Pass, perhaps slightly easier on both ascent and descent than Fleet Moss. The T junction at the bottom has become an annual decision point. I was keen to carry on to Tan Hill but my powers of persuasion were weak. Fortunately James volunteered to do the extra ten miles with me and due to the second puncture of the day we managed to catch the rest of the group as they were leaving the Copper Kettle in Reeth. The last big climb of the day between Reeth and Leyburn was a nasty sting in the tail but was followed by an easy ride back to Ripon via the maze of back lanes. At Ripon I felt quite dejected that we hadn't managed to latch onto the leading group and decided to cheat by using the A61 direct to Harrogate and avoid Knaresborough Hill. 121 miles for the Tan Hill duo, 114 miles for the rest, and both groups arrived back at about 8 o'clock. A fantastic day out - thanks to all! Phil S

Swaledale Anticlockwise

What a fantastic day all round :

Comparatively huge number of club and non-members turned up for scheduled start at 8:30 (fourteen?). Ten self-selected to join Phil going clockwise which more closely followed the Tour de France and promised all the hill in the first half. That left a Fearsome Four on the anti-clockwise - Peter, Sue, Colin and Dave. With the intent of making sure we fully enjoyed the day - we certainly fulfilled it.

Factually: 116 miles, completed climbs up to Grinton, TanHill, Buttertubs, cafe stops in Reeth and Thwaite. Arrived home 22:30

More poetically : I think we all enjoyed the day mainly through shared experience, amiable conversation, stretching physical challenge and the sheer joy of living actively in good weather in simply stunning scenery.

The joint decision to descend Wensleydale made at the foot of Buttertubs led to a glorious and quite speedy pass through the small villages on the north of the river along pretty much deserted roads (apart from identikit silage tractors) and meant that by the time we reached Masham the roads were just about clear enough to continue on the direct route to Harrogate - capped by use of the 'new' Ripley Bridleway to re-enter Harrogate in the least hilly way possible.

Amongst the reminiscences will remain the spotting of wildflowers, baby oystercatchers, hills ending in '-borough' and the site of Sue enjoying her bacon and marmalade tea in Thwaite. Can't say enough how wonderful the trip was - and lets credit the Wheel Easy founders for making such days possible. Peter L





Ingleton Day Out Ride Report - Friday 30 May

Dreadful weather resulted in the Ingleton day out being postponed for a couple of days and in a reduction of the original 12 riders to just 5. However, at the second attempt the weather co-operated by being dry and windless, even if we saw little sunshine.

The ride started south west from Ingleton through Wennington and Wray to Hornby, then over the impressive old bridge over the River Lune to Gressingham (of ducks fame). Then onto the Lancashire cycleway through Arkholme and Docker and over some short, sharp climbs. Into Kirkby

Lonsdale for lunch (food was a bit sparse resulting in a visit to the Spar for supplementary fuel, but the selection of local beers went down well). Before leaving we took a look at the Ruskin View, which looks out over the River Lune to the Howgills. Ruskin described it as one of "the finest views in England and therefore the world", and Turner painted it.

The second half of the ride involved climbing up through Barbondale (one of the quietest and least known dales) and then back over White Shaw Moss and down Kingsdale to Ingleton. Much bird life was spotted in Barbondale, with some of the party rather more able to identify them than others. The climb of White Shaw Moss was hard, but rewarded with fabulous views of Deepdale, even if the lack of sun didn't show it off at its very best. Finally, the long descent of Kingsdale, following the mysterious dry river bed with great views of Ingleborough, regaled by a particularly vocal cuckoo.

A stunning scenic ride which was enjoyed by all. Richard L





Skipton Le Petit Depart

So for some Wheel Easy members we might have only done "Le Petit Depart" as part of the TdF but it was certainly a Grand Day Out!

