

Sunday, June 8, 2014

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 423

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### Short Ride

The short ride split into two, with Lynda taking a slightly slower group, while four came with Geraldine and me. We were concerned that rain was forecast at around noon, so it was hoped we could get back before it started. Lead Hall Lane, Rossett, Squinting Cat and Otley Road to the mini-roundabout at Beckwithshaw where we turned right to Pot Bank and the bottom of Pennypot Lane. Up Pennypot and then right towards the A59 and Hampsthwaite. Two of the group left us at the crossroads over the A59, so the remaining four of us went down the steepish hill to Hampsthwaite. We were too early to be able to justify a visit to Sophie's, so we decided to add a few hills to the route by going all the way up Clint Bank instead of turning right half-way up through Holly Bank Woods. We crossed the B6165 Pateley Bridge Road and down into Shaw Mills, with a nice view of Cut Throat Lane hill. Through Bishop Thornton and on to the Drovers crossroads and then down the hill to Ripley and back along the Greenway, which was very busy with walkers and cyclists. We came across the cycling Policeman, who told us of a problem with motorbikes using the Greenway, but we didn't see any. About 20 miles. Joe

At the start the short ride split into two groups. The faster paced group were keen to miss the onset of rain forecast for midday. A second group felt they'd take their chances with any rain. I led this steadier paced group of six riders. We set off in the glorious sunshine towards Beckwithshaw, making our way to Penny Pot Lane. Then we went along Penny Pot a few hundred yards and then right towards the A59. Once across this busy road, we could almost smell the coffee as we sped downhill towards Sophie's .. We sat outside Sophie's chatting and enjoying a leisurely coffee and cake break. However we also knew we had to face the climb up Clinton Bank immediately after our coffee and cakes. The return journey took us along the greenway to Ripley, then Bilton. At this point Mark, who'd not ridden with us before, parted company with us to make his own way home. Five riders carried on along the Greenway to Harrogate town centre and either directly home or back to Hornbeam. It was a beautiful ride, with great company and the added bonus of a 'no show' of the anticipated rain. Thank you. LN. Distance @ 17 miles





### **Medium Ride**

It was a lovely morning which drew lot of people to the medium ride. We split into three groups with Dennis leading the first, Nicky and Graham taking the second and Caroline kindly agreeing to lead a third. There was hardly any wind and cloudless skies so we made speedy progress from Hornbeam, through the showground to Knaresborough and then out to Farnham. Graham managed to back mark all the way and not overtake up the hills! Then it was a wonderful ride with views for miles into the vale of York. We passed through Ferrensby, Arkendale and on to Marton, Lower Dunsforth and then Boroughbridge. A decision was made early on to have a photo with a yellow bike but the first one spotted on the route was at Boroughbridge and very small. We still chose to take the obligatory shot here! At Boroughbridge there was no space in any of the cafes for our group and as there was a strong portent of rain, it was agreed to shorten the route, head back through Minskip and Staveley back to Knaresborough for coffee. En route we were tagged in a couple of places by wheel easy wannabes, the gentleman leading them wearing a much coveted spotty jersey. It was nice to meet Malcolm, Gia and family out together as we had coffee by the river. Then back to Harrogate via Bogs Lane and the Beryl Burton with no rain all the way. A lovely ride in good company. Thanks to Paul for his guidance with the latter part of our route. 32 miles. Nicky and Graham.

There were many takers for the Medium ride today....the good weather was one factor, but the main one obviously was that the word had got round that El Butler a leader for the medium ride today.....and who does not want to follow in his wheels. From Hornbeam El Butler's group set off at speed, Nicky and Graham's group at a slightly more leisurely pace, and a select group of 5 seemed content not to set off at all. However set off we did and we did exactly what was on the instructions, until we reached Boroughbridge. Here Jen, seeing some very large black clouds and having checked the precise time at which rain was forecast, prepared for a downpour by adding several layers of wet weather clothing. Now having consumed a pleasant mug of coffee or tea, scones and toasted teacakes and our cultured token male a cafetier of coffee, in bright bottling sunlight, we felt getting home whilst dry was a plus for the day, so a slight detour from the cleverly mapped route (thank you Nicky). We sped straight back home with only a couple of drops of rain falling on other people. Carolyn rather smugly left us in Knaresborough...singing something about no hill and we waved at James G. who had arrived home and was seen carrying out

domestic tasks as we passed his house. Ruth had found her first wind and powered up Knaresborough Hill like a seasoned climber. We went our separated ways as Terry overtook us muttering he had to be home for relative duties, and had only done 49 miles .....humph. I had a lovely ride, so thank you all who accompanied me, and particularly to chivalrous, calm, cultured Peter who back marked with his usual courteous care. 32 miles of a bottling standard ride. Caroline G



### **Medium Plus Ride**

Terry and Julie kindly offered to help out with leading the ride. Julie set off first with the fast group with Terry and I following behind with the medium-paced group. The route was hilly but we were rewarded with stunning views before dropping down York's Folly. Coffee stop was at the cattle market, Pateley Bridge and, let's face it, there aren't many places where one can enjoy a mug of tea and a flapjack the size of Texas for £1.50! We headed back with four of our group electing to take the flat road back to Harrogate while the stalwarts headed up the lumpy bits towards Brimham Rocks - followed by one of the best descents in Yorkshire. From Ripley we took the greenway into Harrogate, stopping to confer and compare computer readings. Yes, we are able to confirm that the distance of the ride is closer to 35 miles than the 55 miles claimed of the website. That aside, it was an enjoyable ride in beautiful weather, the promised rain never having materialised. Ian

Mike and Geoff set the pace with Julie leading from the back! Another gloriously sunny day with fine views of beautiful Nidderdale. In Pateley we stopped by the Livestock Market for value refreshments, as did several Yorkshire cycle clubs who occupied all of the outdoor seating. The steep climb to Brimham Rocks afterwards was rewarded by views over to the East including York Minster! At this point the group decided to extend the route with a detour via Markington and Bishop Monkton and that much loved Knaresborough Hill return, 45 miles ! Julie E



### **Long Ride**

Please ride this route – <http://www.cateyeatlas.com/trip/detail/236558/>

It really is good. Of course the marvellous weather, great company and friendly café's helped but for a relatively easy 85 mile ride including great views and attractive villages this route along the lower slopes of the Hambleton Hills is hard to beat. We stopped at Easingwold (The Curious Table) and Thirsk (Café Arabica) being ideally located at 1/3 and 2/3rds of the ride. The only tricky point is the first crossing of the A19 where it's necessary to dash across to the central reservation with all the acceleration you can muster, but we made it. Many thanks to all at Wheel Easy for making such things possible and apologies to anyone who might have come along if I'd managed to get the ride on the website. Phil



