

Sunday, August 3, 2014

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 431

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### Short Ride

A select group of five today. Sue, Skipton Lynda, Declan and welcome back to Mary who has re-arranged childminding duties and has Sundays free again.

We rode to Sophies by the Little Almscliffe route where we met Roy tucking in to his all day breakfast. We all rode back to Harrogate via the Greenway where we took our various routes at Bilton Lane. Declan choosing his route via the Gardeners Arms for a well earned pint. A 25 mile ride. Jean B



### Medium Ride

#### MEDIUM RIDE REPORT 1

Some 25 Medium Riders assembled at Hornbeam on a dry sunny morning and set off in three groups with James taking the first one, Sue Welham the second and Sue Threadgold the third. The route took us to Low Bridge in Knaresborough where Jill decided her legs were better suited to Sue's Group and defected to them! The remainder of James' Group pressed on through Knaresborough, Farnham, Arkendale and out over the A1. By now the breeze was beginning to pick up just in time for us to turn into it as we headed through Great Ouseburn, Thorp Underwood and Whixley. The traffic lights on the bridge at Whixley were unusually busy and the reason was discovered a little further on where we got mixed up in the Tockwith Show. Following the route along Rudgate we came into the Thorp Arch Trading Estate and took a welcome break at the Cafe there and helped reduce their stock of Date and Walnut scones! Suitably refreshed we whizzed along the cycle tracks into Wetherby and Spofforth, despite the strengthening breeze and said goodbye to Rob at Rudding Park. Others departed as we progressed and a hard core of James, Sylvia and Trudi arrived safely back at Hornbeam, having clocked about 37 miles or so. Thanks to all for your company and well done to Sylvia and Trudi on their first outing with the medium Group. James G

#### MEDIUM RIDE REPORT 2

The intermediate medium group set out with eight riders and acquired one more at Low Bridge. We made our way via Arkendale to Great Ouseburn, with Sue T's group not far behind. There was an impromptu stop at Cattal, to admire the passing train from York, then Paul and David left us before the coffee stop, being short of time. At the café we were informed that James's fast group had passed through 2 hours before! , which we did not believe, but enjoyed the, as always, wonderful scones (and Al's excellent sandwich). As we were leaving, half of Sue T's group arrived, the other half having cut the route short for urgent appointments. Monica then left us with saddle problems, leaving Jill, Liz, Al, Diane, Lynda and I to return to Harrogate, just catching a rogue shower at Rudding. A very enjoyable ride, a little longer than advertised at 39 miles. Sue W.

### MEDIUM RIDE REPORT 3

About 24 riders opted for today's medium ride – so James lead the first group off, Sue W the second group and Dennis aptly named our group the "Happy Medium" !

Seven of us set off from Hornbeam but whilst we were having a quick stop at the junction of Copgrove, Marian could be seen heading our way ..... it's not often we gain numbers.

Now up to eight, at about the half way mark at Thorpe Underwood, the group split into two – those doing the prescribed route and Dennis for his Sunday lunch, along with myself on "Sue's "shauffering " schedule, Alison and Gordon headed off on a slightly different shorter route back home.

Welcome back to new rider Jane, who last week had come along on the short ride and today taking to the medium ride – hope you enjoyed it!

Thanks to everyone – about 30 miles in total and not a drop of rain. Sue T





### **Medium-plus Ride**

There was a fairly large number interested in the Medium Plus Ride and when Gia requested for a faster group to come forward, quite a few took her up on that and quickly set off. That left an EG group and ten riders to make two smaller groups for Gia and Monica to lead. We set off at a good pace but the wind was not in our favour so it was a bit harder going than usual up to Stainburn Forest where we regrouped.

Onto Timble hill and then Little Snowden which claimed two casualties in my group – Neil at the bottom with his chain coming off tumbled into the verge and then Simon at the top also came a cropper due to a cleat problem. At the crossroads, both chaps were checked out for any minor injuries and then having been pronounced fit to continue, we made our way down to Asquith and onto a welcome coffee stop at Ilkley.

Back up the hill to Asquith and onto Otley where on Debby's suggestion we tried to check out a possible cycling path through a new housing estate which would have brought us out much further down on the main Otley Road. However a barrier was in place and when Gia enquired in the adjacent office, it seems there could be good potential for the future but it's not accessible for the time being. Back to the main road onto Pool and then turned into the peaceful roads leading to Castley, Weeton and Dunkeswick.

At Kirkby Overblow the majority decided to return home via Pannal instead of the showground route. Various farewells were said en route and all agreed that it had been a very enjoyable ride. About 43 miles. Monica W





Eleven set out on the fast ride and as we reached the exposed moors around Little Almscliffe Crags it became apparent the strong wind was going to make it a taxing day. A windy slog through Timble and up onto Askwith Moor followed by a fast descent into Askwith then the crucial question - do we go to Ilkley or Cockpit Farm? Cockpit Farm was a popular choice but there were a few murmuring of dissent over shortening the ride, however Ride Leader had a plan. Over coffee and cake Leader floated the idea of adding a loop to Wetherby, when nobody argued Leader took this to mean whole-hearted support. Off we went to Pool, taking the lumpy but scenic route via Farnley then on reaching the A61 we had a committee meeting to see who was still in favour of Wetherby, two wanted to be home promptly so took the direct route back to Harrogate and the remainder set off into the unknown. At Kearby we were confronted by the short but sharp Kearby Bank, the peloton took it all in their stride and a group of cyclists heading downhill gave us an impressed "Courage!" as they passed. This was followed by a brisk spin through Sicklinghall, Wetherby, North Deighton and Spofforth then a few more hills and home. Well done to newcomer Jordan who rode extremely well with a fast group on a tough ride. Total distance 45 miles. Barbara D

### **Long Ride**

Fleet Moss is apparently the highest road in Yorkshire so is an obvious magnet for the group of six lazy cyclists who gathered at Hornbeam early this morning. Peter R left us near Masham to head home via Lofthouse. After a cafe stop at Castle Bolton we carried on to Hawes to begin the long arduous climb up Fleet Moss straight into a howling wind.

Almost at the top we met Eric who, being unable to make the early start, had come up through Wharfedale to meet us. Had we been two minutes slower he would have been at the bottom of the hill facing a 25 minute climb. To his credit, Eric made a good display of disappointment at not having to climb Fleet Moss from both sides.

An excellent café stop at West Winds in Buckden was followed by a lovely run in continuously improving weather. The run home down Duck Street with the wind behind seemed to be going well until a sharp object got jammed in Peter J's mudguard causing a two inch long gash in his rear tyre. This was obviously not repairable and recovery services were summoned but Richard L stepped forward with his split toothpaste tube. This was wrapped round the inner tube to coincide with the split in tyre and Peter was able to cycle on. From now on I'll always carry an old toothpaste tube.

Thanks to all for a great day out – 105 hilly miles – great fun and edifying. Phil S



