

Sunday, August 31, 2014

Wheel Easy Ride Report 435

Short Ride

Twelve riders today for the short ride. Welcome to new riders David and Alan and returning rider Alison.

I had been expecting two other new riders today but maybe they opted for the medium. If not hope to see you on another Sunday. You will be made very welcome.

The route was via St Georges Road, Rossett Cycle Path, Ashville to the roundabout then taking the road past the Squinting Cat and working our way to Beckwithshaw to Stainburn Forest. We took the forest path and kept bearing left until we reached the Harrogate Otley road. Heading back to Harrogate we turned right for the Honey Farm where Diane and Barbara left the group and we managed to lose Graham! Don't know what happened there. Sorry Graham if you intended to carry on with us.

We had our cafe stop at the Honey Farm in the beautiful sunshine, tasty scones, hot honey cake and walnut cake with a variety of coffees and tea. It was very relaxed and a shame to have to move on.

Thanks to Diane and Barbara for backmarking and Sarah Everson-Maurer who showed me this route in the freezing cold last December. It was glorious today with some wonderful views. Jean B

Medium Ride

Twenty-two riders opted for the medium ride. With the lure of scones at Thorpe Arch, it was agreed to do the ride the other way round from the prescribed route.

So we set off in smaller groups through Burn Bridge and Kirkby Overblow and along the ridge to Sicklinghall. It was a perfect morning for that route. Sadly, Allison had a 'tyre problem' and had to return home.

We made our way round the edge of Wetherby and down the A1 cycle path to the Boston Spa turn off. At Boston Spa, Gordon was waiting to tell us that the elusive Paul Blackham had met up with the first group. So we all sped off to Thorpe Arch too.

After a very pleasant cafe stop we made our way home via the Harland Way, Spofforth and the notorious Showground hill. A good 30 miles on a beautiful morning. Thanks to Peter, Andy and all those who helped with leading and back marking.

Welcome to two new riders today – Paul and Tim. We especially liked Tim's cycling top as featured on Dragons' Den a few weeks back. Unfortunately, it didn't impress any of the 'Dragons' to invest in said item – but you can buy it online! We hope you both enjoyed your first ride and come back again.

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



Medium Plus Ride

On a morning that looked as though summer had returned some eighteen Medium Plusers split in two groups and the faster boys set off with Terry B never to be seen again by the rest of us! Having forgotten to take Woodlands Road to avoid the worst of Hookstone Chase I took the easier pace group to Knaresborough and on through Farnham to Arkendale where it was clear summer temperatures were returning and appropriate layers were shed.

Progress was then made through Great Ouseburn, with a short stop, and onto Myton on Swale via Aldwark and the infamous bridge. Without too much discussion on the history of the White Battle and having partaken of a banana or whatever else was available to consume we made good progress through Helperby, Cundall and Norton to Boroughbridge. The cyclists cafe at the bottom of the High Street was found to be open and sitting outside in glorious sunshine we worked our way through various quantities of sandwiches, cakes and even scrambled eggs and bacon together with tea and coffee.

Suitably refreshed we moved on through Roelcliffe, Bishop. Monkton, Markington and the Drovers Crossroads into Ripley and home via the Greenway. Just over 50 miles in great company on a lovely route in warm sunny weather - what more could a W/E member want?! Thanks to Terry B. for taking the fast group and our Terry for back marking and up supplying the photos. James G



Long Ride

A dozen riders assembled at the start of the Long Ride, this included Gill and Anne who were eager to find out what a long ride entailed. It soon became apparent that the pace was a little quicker than they had anticipated. At the end of Penny Pot Lane we divide into two groups with Eric leading a small group on a shortened version via Bolton Abbey, Appletreewick and Stump Cross.

The remaining group set about tackling the route as planned, which mainly involved climbing lots of hills in the immediate vicinity of Skipton and then onto the Dales via Gargarve. The first stop

for refreshments was in Gargrave, and given all the energy expended in climbing the hills a second one was called for at Stump Cross. At this point in the ride James had a puncture which needed attention. Glynn did not see the rest of us turn into the cafe's car park and continued on his way back to Harrogate. Eric and his small band of riders turned up. Everyone who took part in the ride was treated to some great views of heather covered moors in the bright autumnal sunshine. Peter J



