

Sunday, September 7, 2014

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 436

---

### Short Ride

A large turnout for the Short Ride on a day of clear skies and no wind. 13 opted for the slightly longer of two rides, 18 miles to Little Almscliffe and Fewston. We made good progress, indeed such good progress that we arrived at the Heritage Centre at 10.37, only to discover that they didn't open until 11. We must have looked crestfallen, as the ladies in the kitchen offered to serve us, which was very kind of them. Better to arrive after 11 in future, though, ride leaders take note. It was tempting to sit outside - it's a sun trap in the morning - for ages, but this was a day when we all seemed to be happy to make good time, so set off for home via Penny Pot. A highly enjoyable ride in great company. Special thanks to Kevin for back marking. Justin

### Other Short Ride

A good 22 plus turned out for the short ride with a choice of a 16 mile or 22 mile route. As I couldn't go in 2 directions I was pleased the Justin (was) volunteered to the longer choice out to the reservoirs.

10 riders took the shorter route. We had one newcomer so welcome to Judith. It was a really pleasant sunny ride today through Burnbridge up to Kirkby Overblow then some bits of fast road then as we only had Andy with a road bike some off road and track through to Follifoot and over to the Lido.

A wrong turn here meant we had a little tour of the caravan site then along water side for drink and snacks. We split for road or Beryl back to town. Richard if you wondered where your cheque went, Graham picked your pocket, no I think it fell out when you left the cafe but has now been passed onto the secretary. Thanks everyone for the company. Paul R



### Medium Ride

At the top of Blubberhouses hill, 10 of us left our leaders to follow the full route through Thornthwaite and Darley as we wished to enjoy more of the wonderful weather and scenery. All turned in to Sophies and we sat outside in the sunshine enjoying great conversation and food

while some found time to drape themselves over a much admired, very shiney Bentley (see photos)! We varied the route home to go through Killinghall and on to the Greenway. 31 miles. Liz P





### **Medium Plus Ride**

This is such a good ride, we have done it twice this week. One reconnoitre and one for real. I have, therefore, two observations (a) Yorke's Folly is a very steep hill and (b) it should not be tackled on a full stomach.

Back to Sunday and twelve riders opted for the "other way round" Brimham Rocks/Yorke's Folly route and we elected to stay together as one group but with gaps. A classic September chilly start with gin clear skies lead us happily and inexorably upwards via Farnham, Bishop Monkton and Markington for a brilliant ridge run to Brimham Rocks with magnificent views across to the Cleveland Hills and down the Vale of York. There then followed a lot of descending through Smelthouses, Wilsill, Glasshouses towards Beverley and our café stop at Tea Cups in Pateley Bridge. There had been quite a bit of chat about the challenge of Yorke's Folly and how we were all going to tackle it and most of us therefore opted for the light, but calorie dense, option of date and walnut cake, although one large bacon sandwich and one double-fried-egg-sandwich were seen heading towards a couple of the party. I am writing this report very carefully because Paul B was heard tutting slightly about a misplaced apostrophe on the café's menu!

After a bit of a rest we all scooted round the car park, changing down a few gears in readiness for the ascent. We all got to the top, each ploughing our individual furrow and it has to be said that, much to her amazement, the lady authoress of this piece started at the back, overtook everyone in the peloton and arrived first at the top. *Move over Chris Froome!* No idea how that happened. We were rewarded with 360° of dazzling views.

The delightful weather continued and we rode on uneventfully through Dacre, Darley and Birstwith. Uneventfully that is until one of Paul B's (note correct use of apostrophe) spokes sort of exploded and wrapped itself round his chain, bringing the Blackham/Bicycle combo to an abrupt halt. Colin and Co did a bit of fiddling with it and Paul continued, riding very gently, with a very wobbly back wheel, using only the front brakes. He eventually opted to leave his bike with a friend en route and catch the bus home. So, no need for a sonic screwdriver, when you are in possession of a bus pass.

Last decision of the day was to return via Hollybank Lane in to Ripley and back home on the Greenway after 45 miles on a truly magnificent day in a well balanced happy group of boys, girls and a few EGs. Helen.





### **Medium + Faster Pace**

No doubt due in part to the glorious weather there was a large turnout for the medium plus ride. The ride leader asked for volunteers to form a faster group of which there were 7- mostly the usual suspects but also new member Trevor.

We made our way to the tea stop at the cattle mart in Pateley Bridge at a good pace- in fact at times we felt we were holding up newbie Trevor.

Most of the group ordered both a savoury snack and a cake to fuel up for the challenge of York's Folly. During the climb we mingled with another group of cyclists from Leeds. In the confusion we thought one of our group had given up but in fact had carried on to the turn off to Darley- so everyone managed to ride up the Folly successfully.

We then had a relatively comfortable ride back to Harrogate via Knox and then on to Hornbeam via a maze of cycle paths through Bilton guided by Ian . 45 miles at an average of 13.5 mph.  
Alastair



### **Long Ride**

Long Ride Report

Statistics. 10 riders, 2 punctures, about 81 miles, home for 5.00.

Weather. No rain

Road rage incidents. None

Café stops. Two (Easingwold and Thirsk)

Unfortunately statistics don't convey anything of the pleasure of cycling around North Yorkshire with such a great bunch of people and my grasp of English can't do it justice either.

Thanks to all. Phil S

