

Sunday, September 14, 2014

## **Wheel Easy Ride Report 437**

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### **Short Ride**

Good turnout again for the short ride. Two new members today Zoe and Judith. Eighteen riders split into two groups. I took the second group and Mariane set off ahead.

We rode on The Stray to Skipton Road, Claro Road to the Greenway and on to Ripley. At Ripley we took the Pateley Road and then Fountains Road, through Shaw Mills to Clint and down Clint Bank to Sophies.

After our cafe stop we headed back to Harrogate via Knox. A ride of 21 miles or so.

Thanks to Mariane and Lynda and Diana for back marking. Jean

### **Medium Ride**

About a dozen riders assembled for the medium ride, but we managed to lose a couple before leaving Hornbeam; presumably upgrading to a longer/ faster ride! Ten riders (on 9 bicycles) negotiated the Flower Show traffic, through Follifoot and on to Little Ribston. Angela and Ian took the lead on their tandem, waiting patiently for us slower people with only two legs to catch up! We crossed the A1 to Tockwith and Askham Richard, then made a very pleasant loop via Bilborough, with clothes being shed as the day warmed up. The leaders' decision to take a coffee stop at Thorp Arch was obviously not enticing enough, as half the group sped on to Wetherby, leaving only Liz P. and Neil to join the leaders. However, we made up for this by consuming large amounts of food (tandem cycling must burn lots of calories!). We returned via Spofforth and the show ground, 42 miles in total, a pleasant ride and good company. Sue W.

### **Medium Plus on-off road ride.**

Six of us followed Dave's group towards Fountains visitor centre on a route which we would describe as the other way round route with some additions. Sue requested a stop with the ladies at Roecliffe (see photo) where we discovered that the gentleman had been vandalised and broken. We followed the directions to Markenfeld Hall where we enjoyed the tranquillity of the setting oohed and aahed at the moat and the fortification dated 1310 and promised to ride out there on one of their open days.

Looking at the map (always handy) I reckoned that as we had approached the house on a bridleway that this would continue and save us a return journey on the Ripon Road. Well here was the start of one of our off road sections, Colin Thomson would have been very proud of us. The bridleway became a footpath but undeterred we walked through a couple of fields, hoiked the bikes over a gate and joined the Ingerthorpe road. Bill and Debbie on their carbon bikes were very game for taking part in this adventure.

After an excellent stop at the visitor centre where we met the other group we puzzled over the next part of the ride. Looking closely at the map Peter suggested there was a bridleway we could use. We cycled to Sawley along Low Gate Road which was new to some then along a bridleway shortly after Sawley Hall. This was a gravelled path which became a concrete path which turned in to a footpath leading to Raventofts Farm. It was a great walk, dry enough to walk our bikes through dense woodland with abandoned ancient gate posts and we could just make out a haha! At the farm we had a good chat with the farmer who told us some of the history and ownership of the land around.

Here we rejoined Watergate Lane and the road to the Drovers. Our mileage was too low to go home so we returned to the Greenway via Shaw Mills, Clint Bank, and Hollybank Woods. We scraped home with 45 miles. Not sure where the other ten miles went we can't even find one place on the map.

A great ride with everyone up for an alternative ride. Gia



### **Medium+ Ride**

Seven of us left Hornbeam determined to have a gentle ride on a morning that was cooler than we have become used to. Three EGs were collected at Low Bridge and off we went. The proposed cultural break was discarded in favour of food and drink at Fountains Visitor Centre, which as usual, seemed a bit slow despite the multitude of staff. Gia's group arrived as we were leaving, and the EG's having taken their own route back via Ripon, we completed the ride and were back at Hornbeam for about one o'clock. Couldn't substantiate the published mileage, agreement having

been reached on 40 miles travelled. Nonetheless, a most pleasant ride out getting me home in time to mow the grass. Thanks to John, Paul, Michael, Debby, Julie, Rob, Roger, Bob, Dave W, and Terry. Hope the injury starts to show some improvement Terry.  
Dave S.



### **Long Ride**

The 10 minute delay at the start waiting for the flat leader soon seemed to be made up. Maybe because 2 were not doing all the way of the unspecified distance, of 33 crow miles to Thixendale

So an early coffee outside at Sutton Park, where names are given in and to Glyn's consternation staff serve in "order of beauty".

At the Castle Howard lake viewpoint the 2 departees declined and ventured into their unknowns with the rest of us.

Forgetting to turn before Welburn meant using a short bit of bike track along the A64 after an awful crossing then down to the Railway King's station and house.

The Wolds hills then showed their ruggedness and seemingly Irish miles, with the wonders of the wolds formations, then the delightful Thixendale ex school, ex yha, community cafe.

But all roads out are steeply up from its 450m base and meeting point of 16 dales.

Millington was left for an other time, and back via Stamford Bridge (WOR) bridge - photo, and then East Heslington campus and cycleways, and - eventually, tested the uni race track and a viewing of the outdoor velodrome.

Across the Millennium Bridge, where we were told to speed up if we wanted to do another (we had not done the first) lap of the go sky closed roads.

Homewards at a fast pace, thanks to shared frontiers, with a favourable breeze. 100 miles including the tour (getting lost) on campus, and its race track circuit.

Good day, thanks all. Richard



### **Off Road Ride**

Just me and Terry for this trip, lots of people away, busy, injured....

Parked at the National Parks car park at Buckden, and set off straight up the track that climbs up through Rakes wood above the "cote de Cray" road, we had elevated views up Langstrothdale. Just a short stretch of the Kidstones pass road, then we went left on the Stake "road" and were soon on top of the world going over Stake Moss.....unfortunately in cloud. Back on tarmac at Stalling Busk, then at last overlooking Semer Water....as far as I know, the only natural lake in the Dales, and currently half-empty! Through Countersett on a very steep tarred road, we soon branched left on the bridlepath to eventually join the (Roman) Cam High Road, but not before stopping to listen to a raven on a crag we were passing. (I don't think I will hear them much longer, as my hearing deteriorates they will drop off the bottom end of my frequency range.)

We joined the Fleet Moss road for a moment, then forked right on the Roman road, where we came across a motorcycle trial .....most opportune, they had a tea van.....

Soon after we left the tea van, the sun came out and we had our sandwiches in the sunshine, in the shelter of a wall, overlooking Pen-y-Ghent, Whernside and Ingleborough, entertained by the crows seeing-off a buzzard. Lifes good! Carried on down with views of Ribbleshead viaduct to Cam End where we went left passing Ling Gill, a nature reserve in a small, steep limestone gill, and having a look at the pothole at Calf Holes. Actually met some people riding the trails on this section! After Calf Holes, we turned left on the track that joins the Greenfield track, ignoring livid warnings about forestry operations, and (as usual) we never saw a living soul until High Greenfield. Then to Beckermonds to join the Langstrothdale road just as it turns to go over Fleet Moss, and all the way down Langstrothdale to get back to Buckden in good time for a brew before the drive home. Colin