

Sunday, October 5, 2014

Wheel Easy Ride Report 440

Short Ride

9 enthusiastic short riders set off from Hornbeam on a beautifully mild October morning! (Welcome to J - new to the club!). On to Beckwithshaw, Little Armscliffe, via Norwood Lane - amazingly, no headwind to wrestle with, and views to die for!

Past the 'burnt out furniture shop' which caused much excitement, then disappointment, (you had to have been there to really get the joke!), and onto the Otley Road, passing the Sun Inn.

A left turn lead us to a first for me - the Fewston Farm Shop and Café at Upper Cobby Syke Farm. What an oasis! Fabulous views, a nice sitting out area, a welcome proprietor and a bacon butty for £2.50!!! Nice cakes, great little gifts and a good butcher, if you had room in your saddle bag! Definitely a place to know about and return to!

After a democratic discussion, the group split, as 2 members headed back to Harrogate via Pennypot Lane. The rest of the group continued on towards Birstwith, Hampsthwaite and home to Harrogate via Knox Lane. Approx 23 miles.

A great ride. Thanks to L. for route planning. Lets hope for continued good weather and a mild winter!!!! S.E.M.



Medium ride

Two groups of 10 for the Medium today, with we first lot stopping for a photo op at Spruisty Bridge, then a quick shufti at the recently refurbished Killinghall Canal on Lund Lane. Then we hit the hills (or vice versa), up to Brimham and beyond, where two deserted us leaving the rest heading for Fountains via Risplith and Aldfield. We were certainly ready for a stop and a rest, followed by a glorious swoop down through the deer park. The leader took six for a tour of central Ripon (not everybody knows their way through, you know), having lost two who, seemingly, did know where they were going. Nowt lost, though, and we met up at the by-pass. At Bishop Monkton the riders were (easily) persuaded to avoid Markington and the Drovers, opting instead to go through the Mountgarret estate to Ripley and then on the Greenway to Harrogate.

A warm welcome to Bill on his first ride.

Around 38 miles on yet another gorgeous day. Paul B





Medium Ride, second group

Eight riders set off on a chilly morning in the care of the "uber" prepared Joe and Geraldine. All was well until we were leaving Birstwith when Peter's front wheel decided to "eat" its mudguard. A reverse wheelie ensued and Peter was lucky not to "eat tarmac". Repairs were swiftly carried out. Now to lose one ride leader can be considered to be a misfortune but to lose two looks like carelessness, however this was not the case. After a further 200 metres Peter's front wheel, which by now was ravenous, decided to have another go at eating its mudguard which resulted in Peter repeating his reverse wheelie but this time with more serious consequences. Geraldine took avoiding action but ended up falling very hard onto her back. Roads were blocked and consideration was given to summoning an ambulance. After a while Geraldine thought it safe to regain her feet but decided that was enough for the day. Alison called husband John who kindly drove over to take Geraldine and her cycle home. Thanks John. Peter suffered a buckled rear wheel and decided to return home after half eaten mudguard was removed. Joe thought it wise to return home to attend to the sick and needy but before leaving he thrust the multicoloured route map into my hand uttering "it's now up to you".

Wow promoted leader on the field of carnage.

The remaining five decided to follow the prescribed route as closely as possible allowing for a small deviation to satisfy someone's craving for an ice cream at Risplith. We nearly didn't make it! As we were going along the twisty road from Brimham Rocks to High Moor we were confronted by young lady driving what looked like a White Fiat Cinquecento, travelling at excessive speed whilst overtaking two fast cyclists, on the wrong side of the road and rapidly approaching us. Fortunately we all managed to stop and hug the banking but it was a very close shave. That person should be banned from driving. Various admonishing comments and gestures were offered! Calming tea, coffee, cakes and ice creams were duly taken at Risplith prior to following the route directly to Ripon and via Markington and the Greenway home. The five of us had a good ride in what might transpire to be the last of the summerlike weather this year. Approx 40 miles.

Geraldine we hope you are not too sore and make a speedy recovery. Peter we hope that you soon unbuckle your wheel and to Joe just keep gaining the Brownie points – you never know when you might need them! Thanks for the planning, Max.





Medium Ride

The day started well enough with some sunshine, despite the nip in the air, and little wind. The medium ride split into 2 comfortably-sized groups, with Paul B taking the first group (not a faster group, as he pointed out) and Geraldine and I the second.

Peter had a problem with his front mudguard by the church in Birstwith, which recurred big time a few hundred metres further on when his front wheel locked up, resulting in him and Geraldine falling off. Fortunately, Peter was mainly just shaken up, but his bike was a bit worse for wear. Geraldine was rather more than shaken up, but after some concerning few minutes, it became clear that we probably did not need an ambulance. Alison very helpfully phoned husband John to come and pick Geraldine and bike up, which he duly did (thanks, John). Peter and I turned back to Harrogate, but the remainder of the group carried on with the ride

Peter's problem arose because his front mudguard got caught in his front wheel and it locked the wheel. There were no 'safety release clips' (see photo) fitted to the front mudguard stays (it was normal for bikes of that vintage not to have them). Had these clips been fitted, the mudguard stays would have been released from the clips, and the front wheel would not have locked. The clips cost peanuts and are fairly easy to fit. Most WheelEasy! members with recently-acquired bikes which have mudguards fitted will already have these fitted, but it might just be worth looking at your front mudguard to check if you have them. It might just prevent you from going over the handlebars...

Med+ Ride

Seven riders set off towards Timble it was a chilly start. It was great to see Paul Tindle back on his bike and in fine form. Paul left us at Askwith and it was a six strong Anglo-American group which continued towards Ilkley. The Anglos were Gia, Debbie, Tim and myself the captain- the Americans Ernie and Jordan. We decided to take up the challenge of Langbar hill as it was now a beautiful sunny day and it was well worth the effort. Bolton Abbey Tearooms seemed a good option for our café stop and we spent a pleasant time eating outside in the sunshine.

Tim had brought a 1939 handbook from Armley Social Cycle Club for our perusal and it made interesting reading. One of the rules was that riders should not overtake the Captain (leader) of the ride. This captain did not insist on this especially on hills. Our return route was different from the prescribed route and took us back up Askwith hill and basically back the way we came.

A hilly but rewarding 47 miles on a lovely autumn day with pleasant company.

Sue C Ride Captain

Med+ B Ride

A sunny group of 7, cheerful in the knowledge that the temperature would warm. We enjoyed a modest pace to Ilkley where Dave and Roy opted for an early coffee, whilst the rest of the pack took to the hills of Langbar and Beamsley Beacon - a glorious late summer special.

Only modest refreshment was available at Avanti but enough fuel the journey home, through Castley and Kirby Overblow - warm sunshine helping to see us all safely back. A lovely ride with good company. Thanks to all. Special mention to Alan on completing his first Medium + (with some sneaky little bumps added to pre-published web route). Well done.

Sarah C





Long Ride

A chilly start to the ride with 11 riders setting off on the long ride. Some steady climbing towards Brimham Rocks & up onto Dallow Moor soon warmed everybody up. A stunning ride across the moor with a swift descent down to Laverton & then on to Masham for the first café stop. Richard L had left the group after Fellback & two more riders headed home from Masham. The remaining 8 continued north towards Constable Burton & East Hauxwell. As seems to have become traditional on rides in this area, it involved several stops to consult the map in order to navigate through the confusing network of lanes. Having successfully negotiated the planned route we were soon back on more familiar roads on our way to a second café stop at Ripon Spa Gardens before the final few miles home via Studley Royal, Fountains Abbey & Ripley. A great autumn ride on some less familiar roads, approx 77 miles. Thanks everyone. Jill.



Off Road Ride

Meeting at the market place in Leyburn, some of us even had time for a cup of tea before the off at 9.30.

Set off towards Wensley, then right towards Redmire, which we by-passed on the gated road, and straight to Castle Bolton. Right on the bridlepath between the houses, climbing up a grassy track to the first summit, then down the shooting track crossing the Apedale track and climbing up to Height of Greets before dropping down to join the Grinton road for a couple of hundred yards. Then left on a good shooting track which contours along (apart from the up and down bits)

overlooking Swaledale. We found a relatively sheltered spot for a sandwich among the scenic spoil heaps from old mines. Dropping down to the road, I decided there was time for "one more track", so we went right and dropped down almost to the Swale before taking a hard left on the Old Corpse Way ("Low Lane" on my map). (Until St Mary's church was built in Muker in the 16th century, there was no consecrated ground in the upper dale; the dead were carried to Grinton for burial.) Climbing by (double-arrow) tarmac lane to the hamlet of Crackpot, then pushing up the insanely steep Crackpot track to reach the (double-arrow) tarred road heading for Askrigg in Wensleydale.....but we weren't, we took the track above Askrigg (Oxclose "road" on my map), 5 country miles to Castle Bolton.....a nice gentle track, just to finish us off. We got a surprise cup of tea at Bolton Castle, which fortified us for the few road miles back to Leyburn by the same route as in the morning. Back in Leyburn not much before 6.00.

But what a day.....2 dales, 2 big climbs, 5 excellent tracks, 6 members out and only 2 minor mechanicals. Colin Irving gets a special mention for doing his first W/E off-road run on his Bob Jackson tourer with 32mm tyresnot the easiest of days, and completed with some style. Colin

