

Sunday, October 12, 2014

Wheel Easy Ride Report 441

Short Ride

Leading my first ride for four months I was fully prepared. Route recced on Friday, route copies printed out, tools in bag in case of a mechanical problem and clear in my mind about the organisation to cater for large numbers. None of this was needed as only Malcolm and Steve P opted to join me on the short ride. We abandoned the plan and set off on a leisurely, care free ride on what appeared to be a lovely sunny morning. We decided we would go to Wetherby via the cycle track from Hornbeam to Rudding Park and then the cycle track from Spofforth to Wetherby. We spent longer over coffee than we would normally have done and even then Malcolm had to be dragged out before he ordered another coffee. He did say it was the best coffee he'd had for a while. We then made our way to Steve's house for a warm as the weather around Wetherby was a complete contrast to Harrogate. Steve showed us the results of his many building projects and his still fairly new carbon bike. We eventually made our way home after cycling 20 miles in three and a half hours. A great mornings ride! Thank you Steve and Malcolm. Paul T



Medium Ride Group One

Another fine Autumn day was forecast and three groups set off, eagerly anticipating the increasing, uninterrupted sunshine. I think I started with eight but every time I did a headcount there seemed to be one more. Finally settled for eleven. It really was a wee bit chilly and foggy most of the way to Boroughbridge but it is a lovely route through Farnham, Copgrove, Bishop Monkton and Littlethorpe so morale was high. We went slightly off piste in Skelton on Ure to admire the little known, and now unused, Church of Christ the Consoler. Most of the group had been unaware of its existence, until today, and were duly impressed.

Feeling a bit peckish, we sprinted in to Boroughbridge and Tasty Snacks which was full of cyclists just about to leave – how lucky is that. It was warm, cosy and friendly and soon large slices of Victoria Sponge were wending their way to our table. Really nice, but I do think they can hold the

green glittery stuff on the top layer of buttercream! We had two Tims in the group today and we waved good by to No 2 Tim who diverted home to Aldwarke.

We donned a precautionary extra layer and put the sunglasses away only to find ourselves drenched in sunshine from Roecliffe onwards. We took the left hand track through to Copgrove, delayed again and enjoyed the final rays of sunshine all the way back home.

It was nice to cycle with such a happy, positive, group – most of whom I have not cycled with before. This had the added benefit of allowing me to come out with all my old jokes and stories and not be faced with a row of glazed faces and stifled yawns. I then had the added joy of waiting for an hour and a half in the car park whilst Keith was away enjoying himself watching one of Joe's master classes in puncture repair. Helen T





Group Three

Mists and mellow fruitfulness, interspersed with brilliant sunshine as our group of eleven cycled to Ripon and then Skelton at a leisurely pace.

We visited the Church of Christ the Consoler in Skelton on Ure and generally agreed it was well worth the time. The church was designed by William Burges and commissioned by the wife of the first Marquess of Ripon. Her brother, Frederick Vyner had been captured by Greek Brigands in 1870 whilst on a European tour and they demanded a huge ransom. However, they killed him

before the ransom was paid and so the funds were spent on building a church in his memory. St Mary's at Studley Royal in Fountains Abbey's grounds is the "sister church" built at the same time by the same architect and the similarities are readily apparent.

Culture done! We proceeded to Boroughbridge, where Caroline and Jill left those of us choosing a café stop. Then, in unbroken sunshine we cycled towards Bishop Monkton and on to the track to Copgrove where Anne suffered a rear puncture and made a repair under Joe's expert tutelage. I think we all enjoyed the lesson!

Thanks to Joe for back marking. Keith T

Medium-plus Ride

Faster Group

Eight members comprised the Medium+ Faster group, six of which were the usual suspects but we also had two new American members with us today who kept pace admirably. The route to Fountains Abbey was spectacular with fantastic long range views in all directions. The ride was not without issues however with Alistair hitting a very deep pot hole which was shortly followed by a rapidly deflated front tyre. Unfortunately he'd used his spare inner tube on his wife's bike last week and Paul therefore came to his aid with a spare inner tube. Initially it looked like the tyre might be a tubular one but on closer examination it did in fact have an inner tube. The whole stop took eighteen minutes which meant we were overtaken by G1a's slower group. We quickly set off in pursuit however, overtaking them near Brimham Rocks. As we approached Fountains Abbey some of the group lobbied to change the planned coffee stop from Fountains Visitor Centre to Spa Gardens. At which point a cry of 'puncture' was heard- which those keen on Spa Gardens thought was a diversion tactic. However it was true as Alistair now had a flat back tyre which meant Fountains became the logical stop. This time the tyre was changed in less than half the time with the rest of the group enjoying their refreshments. Due to the fantastic weather a suggestion was made to put a loop in to lengthen the route home by going via Boroughbridge after Bishop Monkton. five of the group went with this suggestion and three of us (two of whom were keen to get back to watch the Grand Prix) took the scripted route back via Ripley.

Fantastic 45 mile ride. Alistair M

Group 2

After the faster group set off, there were twelve riders left and we split into two groups with G1a and Monica as the ride leaders. The weather was glorious as our group of seven set off and stayed that way for a perfect day of cycling. We had amazing views on Dallowgill Moor which was particularly good for Debby and Jen as this was their first ride up to this moor. After a lovely ride through the Deer Park, we were all looking forward to our stop at Spa Gardens. However, when we got there it was closed with a notice saying that it had been vandalised. Sad for them and disappointing for us. A group decision then to head towards Café Nero for some welcome refreshments. On homewards in the continuing sunshine via Markington and the Greenway. Thanks to everyone for a great day out and their good company especially on the joint navigation (even if we did go a bit off route!) Also welcome to Andy on his first ride with Wheel Easy. Monica W



Group 3

We were the last of ten rides that set off from Hornbeam today with a fine forecast for those heading north and west.

The ride to Brimham and Dallowgill Moor is an absolute favourite and even more so because it was such a spectacular day with amazing views all round and we could see the low lying mist in the Vale of York.

Unusually we left Harrogate via Knox and into Hamphswaite, passed a house which we must have done dozens of times and never noticed that there is a Bingley rise lock feature in the front garden. (see picture)

We all enjoyed the cycle across the track near Fellbeck stopping to take in the views.

Everyone climbed the moor in good style and then enjoyed the gorgeous drop down towards Grantley. Here we decided to try the lane that said unsuitable for vehicles and as I had heard that it had been recently cleared we were all up for an adventure. (See picture) It was worth the investigation, decent surface, nice and clear and it cuts off a corner!

We agreed to go to Spa Gardens for lunch, with Monica giving us heads up that her group would be there too, but then we got the message that they were closed! By this time we were almost in Ripon so too late to return to Fountains. Bridget suggested Booths cafe which was excellent.

Home via Bishop Monkton, Markington and the Greenway. 48 miles with our exploratory deviation. It was a fabulous day and great company, thank you to Alison, Bridget, Liz and Sally. Gia M





Long Ride

Anybody who has cycled with me knows I always say that cycling in Wharfedale is cycling in heaven. Wharfedale provides such wonderful scenery around every bend in the road, I am never disappointed. Even in the worst possible weather, Wharfedale has a beauty that few places can match. So this last week I have been so looking forward to another trip to heaven, and today we have all been rewarded with just the most perfect October weather, clear air, clarity of colours, etc, etc, etc. The perfect ride!

Three long rides set off at different times. Team Cross (captain: Sarah) set off at 8.15am. Team Jackson (captain: Peter) set off at 9am, followed by the main peloton of seven (captain: Eric) leaving Hornbeam at 9.30am. We set off in sunshine and blue skies, but with quite a nip in the air. As we went along Pennypot Lane we could see low cloud covering Stainburn Forest and Washburn Valley, but naturally the sun continued to shine on the righteous! After Stump Cross Caverns we paused for a photo when we found ourselves above the clouds covering Appletreewick and the Wharfedale - quite an experience in the UK! Team Jackson were waiting for us in Cobblestones café, Grassington, so the teams combined and the pelaton was now increased to nine. As we took the clockwise route around Littondale we met head-on the four members of Team Cross who had taken the anticlockwise route. A second refreshment stop was made sitting in the sunshine at Bolton Abbey Tea Rooms. As we passed Ilkley we overtook Team Cross, arriving home before 5pm. If you like stats: it was 77 miles, 3,500' climb, 13.5 mph average: but ignore the stats - this was just perfection! Eric W





Lovely Littondale.

The pictures will tell the tale of this stunning ride with the three Wheel Easy essentials:

- A brilliant route - the only deviations from that on the web site were to sample the bacon sarnies, pork pie and Bakewell tart from the grocers shop in Kettlewell; to make use of the facilities of the Falcon Inn at Arncliffe and bask in the sunshine looking at the village green and limestone of Old Cote Moor Top; and to have a swift cuppa in Ilkley.
- Glorious autumnal sunshine.
- The joy of good company. 70 odd miles. Thanks to all. Sarah C.



