

Sunday, February 1, 2015

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 457

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### Short Ride

It was with some trepidation that I awoke at around 4am Sunday morning to hear the wind howling, knowing that my duties were required as ride leader that very morn!

However, on awaking around 8am, I was relieved to hear less howling, and set about covering up every part of me possible with several layers before venturing out with my two wheeled friend!

The usual enthusiastic crowd awaited at Hornbeam and there were five brave takers for the short ride. The route took us to Calcutt via Yorkshire Show Ground and cycle path between the tip and Morrisons, then Forrest Lane. On to Low Bridge and Abbey Road and right turn to bi-pass roundabout by the Knaresborough Retail Park.

Straight ahead to Little Ribston, where we stopped (not for long!) to debate whether we should attempt Wetherby! However, common sense prevailed for most of us bar one, and four of us headed back to Harrogate via Spofforth where we managed to pick up another stray fellow club member, (J), who had unfortunately got left behind from a faster ride, due to a puncture! So, minus one and plus one, we arrived back at the Yorkshire Show Ground where three of us were lured in by treats at Fodder! Great end to a great ride.

Just so you know, the snow drops were out in full, a clump of flowering daffodils were spotted by the roadside at Follifoot and we were treated to sunshine and glorious views! So, all in all, worth the effort after all! Sorry - no photo - as that would have involved gloves off!! Sarah E.M

### Medium Ride

Liz and myself weren't keen on the route to Fewston due to winds and possible ice so we opted for a gentle ride to Wetherby via Ridding Park and Little Ribston. Liz organised the group of approximately fifteen into two groups. It was great to be back on the bike and although it was cold it was enjoyable. Unfortunately approaching Spofforth Justin got a puncture. In Wetherby our group went to Costa before returning via Sicklinghall and Kirkby Overblow. A good 22 miles with excellent company. Paul T





It was wonderful to see such a good number of people wanting to ride this morning. We were a group of eight, and nine for a short while. We followed Paul to Spofforth but then to Little Ribston where we collected a rider from the short group. At Kirk Deighton Sally had a puncture so Alison sped off to tell James and Nick to come back and fix it (father's privilege!) Dennis headed back at this point but the rest of us went to North Street Deli to await the other three in the warm. We all were well looked after before we headed back via Sicklinghall and Kirkby Overblow so we could enjoy the wonderful views of Wharfedale. We had done 27 miles. Welcome to Jim, Sally and Nick and congratulations to Richard for your first medium ride. I was expecting to be beaten back by ice and strong winds. The latter was certainly there but I had a lovely sunny ride with great company and I think everyone else did too! Liz P





### **Medium-Plus Ride**

A rather reluctant Team Leader at Hornbeam. But eight enthusiastic Wheel Easyers soon had the job in hand. An excellent route for the time of year, a kinder wind than forecast, navigational support, historical anecdotes, snowdrops and aconites, nourishing refreshments, sunshine becoming more bountiful as the ride progressed and of course, the Wheel Easy company and companionship. A super day out. Thank you to all fellow pedallers. (approx 40 miles) Sarah C.





The Long Ride failed to achieve a quorum and as such it morphed into the Medium Plus Ride. We adhered to the prescribed route until we reached Bilborough where we decided to see if the tearooms at Bolton Percy were open. Unfortunately they were closed so it was on to Tadcaster for refreshments. We then returned to Harrogate via Bramham, Clifford, Boston Spa, Wetherby Race Course, North Deighton and Knaresborough. Despite the frosty weather forecast it turned out to be a pleasant ride in winter sunshine only marred by the strong winds. Peter J