

Sunday, February 8, 2015

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 458

---

### Short Ride

And it all started so, so well, clear skies, sun, no wind, not too much frost, feeling good, fourteen nice people to cycle with, all behaving beautifully..... playing my game and all at my pace. However even though it was a day to bottle, as we powered out of Knaresborough on the roundabout turn off to the Knaresborough to Wetherby Rat Run, my pedals started whizzing round at great speed and I wasn't trying or getting anywhere. Oooops, this is not normal, this is not a puncture or a thrown chain, which could have been coped with by Sue O and helpers. This said Al casually is a broken freehub mech.....uum well...sound nasty. With lots of offers of support from the delightful group, they were sent off on their way towards Spofforth with several leaders and route sorters and back markers and possible team mechanics. I phoned St. Max of the Shingles, who immediately jumped from his sick bed, hopped into the car and came speeding to rescue me. I felt like a member of Etxxxx Quickstep having my bike replaced, he d brought a replacement bike I continued on my way, and as I came across no sobbing cyclists, no recognisable confused groups, I assumed all had continued well, and the Short ride group had reached a café...their destination.. This was confirmed by Nicky who had extended her ride, past her house back to Harrogate, as it was such a glorious day. Congratulations to everyone, I say, after two months of not much cycling, we all got back, having hopefully had fun , having climbed a few ups, and done a few miles. Well done particularly to first timer Sue, and Paula practising for a cycling jaunt in two weeks time, and to Al the lone man who did not seem to be too lonely. Thank you to Sue for lovely backmarking and the rest of you for just getting on with it. Caroline G

### Medium Ride

The promise of a lovely day enticed out fifteen riders to climb up to Brimham Rocks. The Greenway was followed to Ripley and then it was climb climb and climb working our way up the back lanes through Warsill to come out near the Rocks. We passed old friends Terry and Norman on the climb who had stopped for photos. The ride down to Sophie's at Hampsthwaite was soon disposed of - was it the smell of coffee that fired up the legs? A suitably long recovery session in the cafe and then everyone dispersed to take various routes homeward. For those of us who went back via Hollybank Woods it was 28 hilly miles. It was bit chilly but so great to ride in the sunshine with good friends. Martin W.





### **Medium-Plus Ride**

On Saturday Terry contacted Gia to inform us the roads around Eccup were closed and even bikes couldn't get through so we changed part of the route. Over twenty opted for the medium ride and Julie kindly offered to lead a group of faster riders. Gia and myself lead a group of ten to Burnbridge, Kirkby Overblow and Weardley Bank where we were joined by Jennifer and Terry. The route continued to Bramhope and then down Creskeld Lane towards Pool. We then had another climb up towards Farnley and Otley as we headed towards Cockpit Farm. After refreshments we decided to change the route as the wind had increased, temperature had dropped and it looked like stormy weather ahead. We therefore returned to Farnley and continued to Lindley and onto Brackenthwaite Lane and home. We certainly made the right decision as we cycled home in the sun. It was a great ride but the hills were hard going so much so that no one wanted the extra loop to Hampsthwaite. Thanks to Terry for informing us of road closures and Bill who supported us getting up the hills! Paul T





### **Long Ride**

The day was simply too good to be any where other than on a bike. Route as on web calendar except for a swift shortcut from Coxwold direct to Kilburn. A glorious 65 miles. The picture has it. Sarah C.





Incredibly twelve riders turned out to take part in the Long Ride. Along the route there was some jiggery-pokery with numbers i.e. one ride left at Boroughbridge but another had joined at Knaresborough. Given the huge numbers participating in the ride it was decided to split into two groups with Peter J leading the vanguard and Eric W bring up the rear. The weather was wonderful with bright sunshine and hardly any wind. The road between Thornton Bridge and Little Hessay had a few frost pockets that had to be treated with care. At Hushwaite the road was covered in frozen slush but it was negotiated safely without anyone doing a triple salchow. The leading group assembled in front of Byland Abbey for a photograph and no sooner had we finished than the rear-guard turned up, so everyone was reassembled for the photograph "take two". The lead group went to the Arabica cafe, Thirsk, for some excellent refreshments. At this point in the ride we somehow managed lose Morecombe Man. While in the cafe we were concerned that we had not seen the second group so we went on an exploratory search of Thirsk, but we only came across Sarah Cross and her group who informed us that the second group had suffered a mechanical failure in Kilburn. As we could do nothing to assist the group we the continued on our way back to Harrogate without any problems, other than avoiding the walkers on the Greenway. Peter J



We were having a splendid morning, right up until we hit Kilburn, Andy literally biting the dust as he came off on the right hand turn. He had gone down quite heavily, but his youth stood him in good stead and he was soon raring to continue. Unfortunately, the tumble had damaged his derailleur, which immediately snapped off. There were many "mechanics" on hand to assist, but the real rescue came riding round the corner in the shape of Colin, who provided us with the vital split link which allowed the bike to be reverted to a single speed. Andy opted to return to Boroughbridge with Phil, and we later learned that he had arrived safely. Hopefully we shall see you out again with us lads in the not too distant future. Dave S.