

Sunday, February 15, 2015

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 459

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### Walking Wounded Ride

There were two riders initially, with dodgy muscles and joints that might complain on hill`s, so Yvonne and Dave P decided to head for Wetherby for coffee and treat all hills in our way with respect and in a sensible manner. This can be difficult as both riders can be at times somewhat competitive, and easily swayed if the peloton goes for it.

Although the ride was open to all we only had one taker, (perhaps it was the physical description of the two riders, and perhaps the doubt that they might even not make it back home). So Yvonne, Val and Dave P headed up Leadhall Lane to be caught in the slipstream of Wheel-Easy "A" team as they sped past us in to the distance. Coming the other way was Roy, a fellow EG who can smell coffee, downwind ten miles away, but has been know to succumb to the odd Full English.

So now we were four, then on to the ridge at Kirkby Overblow and the magnificent view hidden by mist and into Wetherby. "Can we go to Costa`s for coffee" said Yvonne, students of the English language would have defined that as a request, however to DP this meant no way Morrisons and DP is certainly not that brave.

After coffee it was along the Harland Way, which was a little muddy, in fact a lot of the roads so far had been somewhat clarty. It was here that it was decided that at one household in Harrogate, Martin W would be cleaning two bikes, but Yvonne would make tea.

At Folifoot it was decided to avoid the two up and down bits that lay before us, ie up to the showground and out of the same, by heading on the old road to Calcutt and back in to Harrogate via Hookstone Road. Dave P

### Medium Ride

Eight blokes, no birds, out to Ripon and Boroughbridge on a dull day.

Neil said that you need something interesting/different/exiting for a ride report but there was nowt. The end.

Oh, the sun came out. A bit. Paul B



A group of eight left Hornbeam as the 'leisurely' medium ride, including new, but fit member Paula. We were joined by two more waiting for us at Low Bridge, having overtaken Paul's group, by means of a sneaky short cut along the main road. At Farnham we politely 'allowed' them to pass us again! We made a good pace to Bishop Monkton, considering how few miles most of us had cycled over the winter.

At Littlethorpe three turned off to return via Boroughbridge; the rest of us followed Bridget's suggestion of coffee at Booth's cafe, which turned out to be a good idea. We returned via

Skelton, Boroughbridge and Copgrove, by this time warmed up and even seeing a glimpse of the sun! At Knaresborough we went our separate ways, 36 miles of pleasant cycling and good company.

Sue O



### Medium-Plus Ride

What a dreary day! Only the weather though – we were as happy as anything and Keith was in a Captainish\*\* sort of mood. We set off briskly for the well worn route out past the Squinting Cat and in no time at all were re-grouping in the Fewston Car Park for a quick comfort break and to allow Martin time to make a fine adjustment to his shiny new bike. It involved the words “grub screw” and “small allen key” – nope, I’ve no idea either!

Despite the grey conditions there was a nice buzz of laughter and conversation and Sarah had started some subliminal advertising about The Langbar Loop. We stopped for several team talks at Timble and Askwith but no actual decisions were made until the time came to turn right, or not, to Ilkley. Martin opted to go direct to Cockpit Farm to rest his knee on a scone and a coffee; Gia, Jen and Alan, went direct to Ilkley, which left the rest of us reeled in by Sarah and Jill (of “The Hills” fame) to go for the Langbar Loop. This proved a delight as the road had been recently re-surfaced which made the up bit easier and the joy of the long descent worth all the effort. The sun even put in a short, feeble appearance. I think at this point we had totally lost control of the leadership thing and found ourselves talked in to a lunch stop in the Bolton Abbey Tea Rooms. Another good decision! I sat next to a 97 year old gentleman, out for a quiet full english breakfast who told me about his cycling days when he and a couple of mates used to cycle over to Bridlington for a fresh crab!

Full of luscious food, coffee and tea we headed home on the classic route via Otley and then the back road through Castley, Weeton, Dunkeswick, Kirkby Overblow, Rudding Park and Harrogate. We did lose Sarah and Sue at Otley as they went home via Farnley and Lindley Park Reservoir, to throw in a bit more hill training.

This was an unexpectedly good winter ride on what at first appeared to be a dull, grey day. The final total was 54 miles with quite a few tired legs. Helen and Keith T.

\*\* See the House at Pooh Corner, Chapter 7, “Rabbit’s Busy Day” for a full explanation of “captainish”. Any similarity to person or persons, living or dead, is just a coincidence!



After cycling across from Leeds to test my fitness, Keith asked me to lead a faster group. Not what I was expecting after that but the request was gratefully accepted. Gathering up my small band consisting of Michael, Tony, Paul and me, we immediately set off towards the misty hills of Timble. There was a minor mutiny after Timble and only I took on what has regularly been bemoaned as 'its only downhill to go back up again ' official route through Snowden village. We met up at top of the hill and sped down to Askwith and on to Ilkley for refreshments (that must be a first as its usual for the call of Cockpit Farm Cafe to be too much for most riders to resist!) Then it was time for the return journey through Ben Rhydding and on to Otley, where we said our farewells and set off back to Harrogate and Leeds accordingly. Many thanks to the crew for making it an extremely fine ride - Glyn F.

### **EG's Sunday Ride.**

It's a well-known formula and it produced the predictable result; a no wind, no rain day when five mates were of one mind; a day out on the bike!

We saw quite a few of our fellow club members, and lots of other cyclists. We gently climbed a few, and carefully swooped down the others' sides. We rode alongside rivers, and motorways. We explored little known country lanes along with more familiar routes. We dodged potholes and enjoyed the luxury of new blacktop. We admired the snowdrops and, yes, a few daffodils, as well as lamenting trees felled in the recent storms. We sympathised with lone horses seemingly forgotten and sad; we saw pigs and cows and sheep aplenty, as well as a kestrel wrestling his breakfast on the verge. Sorry we disturbed you mate.

We enjoyed the hospitality of two of our regular watering holes, as well as convivial conversation with their other diners, from three to at least eighty three years. Well actually.....some of us are nearly.....(Better not go there, better remembering Groucho's comments on ageing).

It was rumoured that our Leader had got himself fixed up with a bird; I tried my best to tempt one onto our ride but she wasn't having any of it.

Thanks to Norman, Terry W, Dave W (our leader for the day), and Dave Wilson We are so lucky; what a lovely lovely day out. Dave S.



### **Long Ride**

Despite the misty morning eight wheel-easy stalwarts lined up for the long ride to Masham via Lofthouse. The same eight riders returned. Nobody got lost, nobody had to leave for prior appointments and there were no mechanical issues. In short the ride was totally uneventful apart from the un-scheduled stop at Teacups in Pateley Bridge.

Now, most cyclists enjoy Teacups. It's pleasant, down to earth and oozes rural character. Today was no exception and we were treated to an overload of the aforementioned rural character. First we were introduced to a sheepdog which was lucky enough to have starred in a recent edition of country file; we then moved on to miscarriages of local justice involving driving offences, sheep stealing and arson. These glimpses into the underworld of Britain's farmers could end up as an Archers plot, so if you tune into that institution of broadcasting and hear a program involving evidence obtained from passing micro-lite aircraft it all really happened in good old Pateley!

Back home about 4.30 after a dry 70 miles. The photos (taken about 2 hours apart) don't really do the day justice. They look far too sunny. Philip S



### **News from Spain - Dénia to Benidorm!! Terry Cushley**

Just thought that I would share my fantastic day out. 85kms in total 20kms on cycle paths the remainder on good 'B' roads where the cyclists outnumbered the cars! It was just a pleasure to be out with the sun shining, a temperature of around 55°F and a following wind. I crossed three mountain ranges climbing over 4500ft in total. The ascents were long (12kms) but not arduous and you were rewarded with stunning views. The photo taken just before the summit of Col de Rates (400+m). The descents were exhilarating with long straights and wicked hairpins! I arrived in Benidorm late afternoon just 10mins before the train was due to leave. No booking of bicycles required and the fare back to Dénia cost €3.75 for a journey which lasted 1h 10mins - Result!!

