

Sunday, April 5, 2015

Wheel Easy Ride Report 466

Short Ride

Glorious day today. 8 of us set off via Tewit Well, St George's, Ashville, Squinting Cat, Beckwithshaw to Stainburn Forest. Through the forest bearing left with beautiful views all the way to the Otley Road and then to the Honey Farm cafe where we had scones with gorgeous gooseberry jam, one portion of warm honey cake and one portion of warm honey and ginger cake. Delicious!

As we had only covered 11.5 miles it was decided by everyone that we would like a little more. We were committee led on the way back as I wasn't sure of the way. We took the road to North Rigton, passing close to Almscliffe Crag, then Sylvia and Trudy took the road to Beckwithshaw, the remaining six of us returning via Burn Bridge, Green Lane, the Mallinson estate and Fulwith Mill Lane back to Hornbeam. Judith showed us some veteran cars she had noticed in the building next to Al Bivo. It was fascinating to see them.

This was a lovely ride of about 22 miles, with very little main roads, sun, beautiful views, good company, super cafe stop. Thanks to everyone for making it a wonderful ride. Jean



Medium Ride

Justin's groups to Brimham took a little while to settle while we welcomed some new riders and returning riders to Wheel Easy. At the end of Lady Lane we regrouped with myself, Justin, and Paul B leading a group each.

I led our group of five from the back having teamed up with some very quick cyclists but they were very patient and as it was new territory for one he was very forgiving. We arrived at Brimham where Mike returned to Harrogate and we enjoyed the beauty of the rocks, the views and felt very satisfied passing the queue of cars waiting to get in to the National Trust car park. We had a great run down on the Warsill road until we joined the road to the Drovers and on to Bishop Thornton, Shaw Mills, Clint and Hampsthwaite. Here Andy declined a visit to Sophie's and sped home and as we settled down for our lunch Malcolm arrived with his fine machine, having followed most of the route.

Home via the Greenway, full of walkers, horseriders and lots of young children on bikes. Brilliant. Great ride, thanks Jen and Debbie for the company, 40 very up and down miles. Gia



Another Medium Ride

Two groups left Hornbeam, led by Gia and me, and then re-arranged themselves into three – many thanks to Paul for leading a 'medium minus' at no notice. Apart from an overcast start, and our plans to stop at Brimham being thwarted by the sheer volume of car-borne visitors, this was the perfect ride. It's a hilly route, but all of the climbing is in the first half, up to Norwood, along a bit, down a bit, and then - the OS map tells us - a 200 metre climb from Hartwith toll bridge to the ridge above Brimham Rocks. This was re-paid with fantastic views, sunshine from the top of Stripe Lane, an 8 mile descent from Brimham via Warsill, and warm enough to sit outside the café at Ripley. And, at various points, the sound of curlews, song thrushes and green woodpeckers (thanks to Peter for pointing them out). We met Paul's group at the café, where the service seems to have improved markedly, and cycled back along the Greenway together. Thanks to all for a grand day out. Justin



Medium+ Ride

The day started well, with over twenty Medium Plussers assembling. A couple of sidesteps avoiding the faster boys, and eleven like minded medium pacers left at a gentle pace. A quick "how do" to the EGs at Low Bridge, a near miss with a lady in a big black cape, who was incapable of moving aside from the middle of Abbey Road (the clue's is in the word Road), and an audible encounter with a GT86 driver (Happy Easter Dave), and we were on our way.. It was good to be out and the miles rolled by as we all chatted together.

We knew something was wrong when we caught up with Terry's faster group; a broken spoke on a pair of fancy wheels prompting an early bath for Terry, and leading to one nameless member muttering something about a tortoise and a hare!

Onward to Bilborough where the conversation took an intellectual turn, prompting quotations from Wordsworth and A E Houseman. We expect nothing less in this company.

York was at its best as we meandered down the riverbank, with quite a lot of traffic on the water, and a strong temptation for the blokes when we came across a model railway exhibition at the Racecourse.

Now Westward bound, and still no headwind. After a quick natural break at the Civil War monument, and appreciation of the verges, which were flowering in our club colours of celandine and violet, a bit of birdwatching trying to locate skylarks, hearing the chiff chaffs, and watching an aerial battle between a pair of buzzards and a red kite we soon found ourselves in Follifoot.

Sorry Jo that I lost you there; it will not happen again. Thanks to Alan, Paul, Rob, Marvin, Keith, Bill, Helen, Jo, SarahX, Colin, and Jill J, . I hope we can all repeat the exercise on next week's Daffodil Ride. Dave S.





Long Ride

Nine riders decided to go on the Long Ride; this included a new member, Alan, who was attempting a Long Ride for the first time. With bright sunshine and no wind we made good time in reaching Burnsall for the first refreshment stop. With amazingly quick service we were feed and watered and were soon on our way again. The climb up to Embsay Moor was testing as usual but was a nothing compared to what was to come.

This was a new untested route devised by PCJ and all was going according to plan until we left Skipton and headed for Sutton-in-Craven. The route traversed the foothills of Lothersdale and turned out to be unexpected hilly. As we progressed to Sutton the hills became more frequent and steeper, so much so that each hill was greeted with a chorus of "Oh no, not another bloody hill". The hills approaching Sutton were small potatoes compared to the climb out of Sutton towards Goose Eye. By now the temperature was rising, the sun was out, and being inappropriately dressed we were all suffering in our own personal saunas. Eventually we reached the summit of the climb and decided that another refreshment stop was required. So we made our way to Silsden via Red Tarn Lane and Steeton. Silsden turned out to be a No-Go Area for tearooms and cafes so we called in at a local pub. Little did we know that the pub stopped serving food at 3 o'clock and we had arrived with 10 minutes to spare, but the huge sandwiches and the pints of orange juice were much appreciated.

The ride continued by tackling more steep hills as we made our way to Menston, by now we were all feeling the full effects of all the hill climbing and time was definitely against us. Some of the riders were wondering if we would get back to Harrogate before nightfall. PCJ made the executive decision to return to Harrogate on the least hilly route. So we hit the main road from Menston to Otley, Otley to Pool and Pool to Harrogate. With sterling work by the front riders we made excellent time back to Harrogate. At the end of the ride PCJ apologised to all the participants for putting them through such a long gruelling ride. This was definitely a one-off and never to be repeated ride. Peter J.



