

Sunday, April 19, 2015

Wheel Easy Ride Report 468

Short ride

So, unlucky for some, twelve riders decided on the short ride today, plus myself, a total of thirteen! This included new rider Kate, wife of Steve Price and long time no see, a very welcome back to Jane!

We headed down towards the showground but didn't stop to take part in the orienteering but carried on towards the new Harrogate RUFC where there was an assortment of ages playing! Down into Follifoot and on into Spofforth. The sun shone briefly as we climbed towards Little Ribston but then it came over quite chilly and some very light brief spots of rain.

At St. James Retail Park, Dennis needed to add some extra miles before his Sunday lunch so headed out towards Farnham and Scriven whilst the rest of us headed along Abbey Road for light refreshments at Knaresborough.

Thank you Jane, for being back marker J

Thank you all for your company on this superstitious ride! SueT



Medium Ride

It felt a bit wintry and cold as we set off from Hornbeam, but we soon warmed up on the climb to Little Almscliffe. Jill and Bridget left us shortly after that to pursue a shorter route home. Another climb up to Timble and soon after we were descending the hill towards Asquith. We arrived at Cockpit Farm ready for our coffee. At first it looked as though we may have to sit outside in the cold, but then luckily found tables inside to accommodate all 10 of us. All refreshed we cycled towards Otley, Farnley and then over the main road towards Castley and Weeton. The sun made a welcome appearance on our way to Kirkby Overblow. Before long the Showground hill was in sight and completed. As we all went our separate ways at the top, all agreed that it had been a good day out. Thanks to all for good company and a mention to Jackie who really enjoyed her first longer ride and Fiona who finally got to grips with her gear changes up the hills.

35 miles Monica and David



Medium+ Ride

3 groups set off from Hornbeam to take the Greenway and then to Birstwith and Darley. Up Low Lane and on to Thornthwaite, Padside and eventually Duck Street. Bitterly cold and windy conditions meant the café stop at Stump Cross was especially welcome. Scones and tea hit the spot as did the giant piece of coffee cake demanded by Peter Bradley. Brilliant down hill run before the turn off the main road. The sun came out and we were all too hot! Superb views across Wharfedale as we progressed toward Bolton Abbey a really beautiful ascent. Home via Askwith where it was extremely and scarily windy on the top. Little Almscliffe and the group dispersed to find their best way home. All agreed it was a lovely, hilly ride showing the best of Wharfedale. 53.5 miles- felt like more, with 4742 foot of climbing -felt like all of that. Thanks to Colin and Julie for leading their groups. Sue C



Medium+ Ride

The slightly faster group (7 riders) enjoyed the flat 10 miles to Hollybank Lane then an undulating stretch through beautiful Nidderdale towards Duck Street via Low Lane. With a biting north wind in our faces the climb to Greenhow was distinctly unpleasant and you could even see your breath in the freezing cold air. After a much needed lunch stop at Stump Cross Caverns ,which luckily had bacon sandwiches in abundance , the group set off towards Appletreewick. At this point the sun made an unexpected appearance and the descent into Wharfedale was breathtaking with stunning views of Simons Seat and Bolton Abbey. We crossed the river at Cavendish Pavillion and then again at the old bridge next to the A59 where we crossed the main road and headed to Beamsley and then on to Ilkley. At Cockpit Farm we enjoyed a second coffee stop in the afternoon sunshine and tried to work out the flattest route back to Harrogate! At Otley the A team (Alistair and Andy) inadvertently turned off to take in some more hills whilst the rest of us stuck to the river and on to Poole, Castley and Weeton. We returned to Harrogate via the A61, then through Burnbridge. Paul got a puncture, the A team caught up, and Alistair and I managed to set off the 20 mph speed warning sign by Rossett School !!!

A challenging ride for all but good company and great views !! 57 miles , 13.3 mph average . Julie.

Long Ride

Seven riders decided to go on the Long Ride; this included Martin who was suffering from a dodgy hip but was prepared to give it a go. The group took a circuitous route via Burn Bridge, Kirkby Overblow, Kearby Cliff and the dreaded A61 to reach the foot of Weardley Bank. Weardley Bank lived up to its reputation and after a reasonably strenuous climb we were on our way to Bramhope and then across to York Gate, after which we made a rapid descent down West Chevin Road to Otley. Once we had negotiated the traffic jam in Otley we made our way to Cockpit Farm cafe where we meet the Medium Ride group. The group took great delight in informing us that the cafe was full, and it was about to start to rain, so we had better get off to the next cafe pretty quick.

Heading towards Ilkley the skies cleared and the rain did not materialise. Long Riders are drawn to Langbar like moths to a flame with almost the same effect, in this case burning muscles. Martin at this point elected to go to Bolton Abbey Tearooms on the low level route, citing his dodgy hip as an excuse. We could see from the sad expression on his face how disappointed he was in not doing the climb to Langbar. Eventually we all met up at Bolton Abbey and stopped for some refreshments.

We resumed our ride towards Barden Tower, crossed the river and took the back road towards Appletreewick; and then on to Stump Cross Caverns. From leaving Bolton Abbey we had to contend with a cruel north-easterly headwind and this continued all the way to Stump Cross Caverns. Despite the stop at Bolton Abbey another refreshment stop was called for; who can resist the prospect of the best scones in Yorkshire? During our refreshment stop Martin regaled us with his tales of his efforts to construct a shed for his outdoor barbeque (a la Grand Design), hints and tips on investing in the stock market, and the refurbishing of a classic Ferrari (don't tell Gia). Suitably refreshed we embarked on the Duck Street Sprint which was most enjoyable until we turned on to Menwith Hill Road where we encountered severe cross winds. At the Menwith Hill Road/Dacre Banks Road the group split up and went their separate ways back to Harrogate. Peter J

