

Sunday, May 3, 2015

Wheel Easy Ride Report 470

What a morning! I texted all the ride leaders to say that as it was pouring with rain that they did not need to turn up and that I would go down and explain their absence!

I got several very relieved texts back and DROVE down to Hornbeam as the rain threw it down. Not surprisingly in true Wheel Easy tradition seven brave souls turned out. Sorry Alistair that you missed the photo opportunity.

Five looked as though they might set off on a ride so we will wait to see if they did.

Shame as the forecast for this afternoon is good. Is this why we need Facebook?



Medium Ride

It did not bode well for me as leader that morning as I discovered my bike had a flat tyre (after having checked it the day before and topped-up both to near max. pressure). The air turned blue I must admit but limited time meant it had to be the old bike instead and so it was that I arrived just on time in pouring rain to find a few willing riders in the bike shelter with nowhere to go, so I took my opportunity to gather some support for the medium ride that was planned. Five of us set off through the town to Bilton, down to Knox bridge where Oak Beck was in spate and on to Ripley, pausing at Hollybank Wood to put some extra air in my rear tyre. We climbed through Clint and then Burnt Yates turning right at the fork for Brimham, and as we got higher the visibility got worse although the rain had eased somewhat. My hopes of encountering the cuckoos which migrate from Africa to these moors were still high as we passed the rocks but I had to settle in the end for a calling curlew. The ride down to Warsill and on past the Chequers to Ripley again was a treat as the rain was light and more showery. I caught up with the others here and there being no takers for the café, we returned by the almost empty Greenway to Bilton from where we took our own routes home. Thanks to the others for their patience. 27 slow miles with webbed feet! Peter B

Long Ride Report

In a winter that has been remarkably mild and allowed me to clock up my highest winter mileage so far, the one blot on the horizon has been the jinx that the long ride leaders rota puts on the weather. Whenever it is my turn to lead the long ride, the weather suddenly changes to almost impossible conditions. Prior to today, my record for leading my last four long rides reads as follows: two cancellations in December and January, then in February only one person joined my ride as a result of the Met Office severe weather warnings, and in March the ride had to be shortened due to the weather. So I think I am due some good weather, but not today apparently - I turned up at Hornbeam at 9.30am in very heavy rain (yet again) and was frankly

relieved when no other long rider turned up, so I could return home. I clocked up just three miles, instead of the scheduled 77, and got well soaked in the process! However, the long ride was going to include watching the Tour de Yorkshire climb the 'Cote de Chevin', so I now re-planned my day and made a quick call to my sister who lives just a few minutes walk from the 'Cote de Cow and Calf'. The rain stopped, the sun came out, and the family drove to Ilkley to watch the tour (see photos). What fantastic scenes there - so reminiscent of the atmosphere at the Cote de Blubberhouses for the Tour de France last July. And what wonderful weather! So perhaps some clouds do have a silver lining. Maybe one day I will get to lead a ride in good weather! Eric W

