

Sunday, May 10, 2015

Wheel Easy Ride Report 471

Short Ride

Ten riders today. Some new faces and some returning faces. Lovely to have Malcolm with us today.

The ride took the route via Leeds Road roundabout to St Georges, Ashville, Squinting Cat, Little Almscliffe, Sun Inn to Penny Pot Lane. No-one wanted to opt for the 15 mile ride back to Harrogate from there. We carried on to the A59 via Fewston Farm shop, then on to HMS Forest Moor, Menwith Hill to Hampsthwaite.

Cafe stop at Sophie's where Dennis and Peter left us to get home for lunch. The rest had a mini election to decide our route back. Clint Bank and the Greenway winning.

Total mileage about 27 miles. Jean B



Medium Ride

The medium ride was down as a flat forty miler. Just a bit to long for some of us (for various reasons) so three of us Bridget, Susan and Dave P took leave of Joe and Geraldine at Tockwith and headed for Rudgate and the cafe at Thorpe Arch Trading Estate.

The wind was a bit "in yer face" but all three riders took turns to push it. After a giant scone and squashy cake, it was back to Wetherby via the cycle path, and Spofforth via the Harland Way. The final "little hill" out of the show ground felt (for some) quit a pull, and cramp became a problem.

However our medical professional advised gin and tonic(the quinine in the tonic should help).

Now that`s the type of medical advice we love.

Approx 32/33miles car park to car park. Dave P



There was a large turnout for today's rides which was of course due to the fine forecast but perhaps somewhere in everyone's DNA they knew that this was the 9th anniversary weekend of Wheel Easy. The first two weeks of rides were cycled in pouring rain and distances of about 10 miles!

So today we welcomed new members and many members who joined back in May 2006 and reflected on the great variety of rides and the commitment of our members to turn out come rain or shine.

With excellent route advice and back marking from Paul, Debbie and Kevin we collected Nicky and Graham in Follifoot and trundled round the flat 40 mile route wondering why there is no coffee stop until Wetherby, where the cafes were groaning with cyclists and we spread our custom around the town. Along our route we met up with Paul's group and later with Joe and Geraldine's bunch who were settling in for lunch.

This is a lovely ride on a sunny day and as usual in great company. 42 miles. Gia M





Medium Ride

'Group 1'

We set off first to go slightly faster that got slightly faster still. Max joined at Spofforth and took a short cut to keep up and thought he was trying to catch us up but found himself chasing another group. All came together at Marston Moor where John had a puncture. Gia arrived to take a picture of my bike being the only one that was in use 9 years ago in 2006 but all these cyclists crowded in behind, then it was hare and tortoise again to Wetherby, Max leading the charge at 18mph and Neil behind who knew that there would be a long wait for coffee at North Street so what was the rush. Nikki and Gia's group turned up hoping we had finished, wanting our seats but we sent them packing (we were saving them for Geraldine and Jo!). Back on the cycle track we passed other random wandering renegade wheel easy riders, who passed us again at the showground where we dealt with Ginny's puncture. 42 miles slightly long for a medium but a good workout. Paul R

A large-ish turnout today (the 9th-anniversary of Wheel Easy, Gia told us), with around 25 for the medium ride. Weather looked OK – no rain forecast, moderate winds from the East or Southeast. Paul took the first group of around 8 slightly-faster riders, Gia stepped in to lead a similarly-sized second group and Geraldine and I ended up with 12. Dave Preston was only on his second ride out after his operation, and one or two others were a little concerned about the distance of the ride (40 miles), even though it was pretty flat. The weather warmed up as we proceeded eastwards, with lots of vivid yellow Rapeseed fields and very-neatly-made furrows (for potatoes?) to complement the hedgerows and cherry blossom. (Is there a better way of experiencing the lovely countryside at this time of year than on a bike?) By the time we reached Tockwith, Dave decided it was time to head back, and Bridget and Sue joined him on the way back to Thorp Arch. 9 of us continued to the Marston Moor memorial, where we stopped for a photo, and we admired Gordon's new super-light carbon bike. Ever eastwards towards Hutton Wandesley and Angram, on roads I rarely cycle. After a brief re-group for another photo in front of the duck pond in Askham Richard, Liz suggested a minor detour down a very small road which she had used some years ago. Very quiet small roads to Healaugh and Wighill and on to Wetherby via Thorpe Arch. Somewhere along the way Gordon and Alison and Andrew headed off independently, and then we lost Justin, too (sorry Justin). Just 5 of us turned up at the North Street Deli, only to discover that Paul's group had already been and gone, and Gia's had tried to get in but couldn't. After some rather good sandwiches and coffee, the 5 of us returned along the Harland Way, to Spofforth and then back the way we came. At the showground, we noticed dozens of red kites, the largest number I've seen in one place. About 41miles. Joe S

Medium-plus Ride

Eight road bikes and one mountain bike, a 29er as I was to learn later, for the medium plus faster pace ride today. The route after Grantley was new so we took plenty of papers containing the ride instructions from Martin and set off for the Greenway.

After a brief stop in Ripley where we met with Peter's group for the first time, we were soon on our way and made good progress to Sawley and Grantley without the early stop at GT's. A missed turn in Grantley and much debate about the route resulted in us heading back to the recreation ground and along some minor lanes where we caught up with Peter's group, deciding to ride with them for a while.

As we rode along the top of the moor and started our descent Alastair missed a left turn and in spite of our best efforts to find him, wasn't seen again. So after another route check we were back on our way and as we finally approached Greygarth Tower we saw Peter's group for the last time making their way across a field on foot. This was not for us as we opted to keep our cleats clean and continued to ride on.

At a T junction faced with Kirkby Malzeard or Laverton we decided we'd had enough adventure for one day and we took a more familiar route back to Ripon for a café stop at the Spa Gardens. Having sat outside to take refreshment and removed a few layers we rode to Bishop Monkton where I left the guys who headed back to Harrogate via Markington. Thanks to everyone for plenty of support today on a hilly and unfamiliar route - a thoroughly enjoyable ride in good company. Martyn B

Six riders decided that with all those hills in prospect a steady approach was needed. Plugging away we made it nicely to GTs for coffee. (Does anyone know what GTs stands for? No gin on offer that we could see!) Our new rider Jonathan was pleased to see that two stops were on offer and clearly joins in nicely with the Wheel Easy ethos. Then down and up to Grantley and the moors where Curlews were filling the air with their cries. Climbing finally to the Greygarth monument and most of the group climbed up to see the views. Then it was a delightful ride along quiet undulating lanes to Laverton, Winksley and the Fountains Visitor Centre for a late lunch. We headed nicely home along the Greenway where the faster group caught us up. No we didn't outrun them, they had been to Masham. A superb 42 miles on a pleasant day in good company. Martin W



Long Ride

Nine set off and eventually we cleared Knaresborough. Perfect cycling conditions for Eric to test his new bike, but we split the group while he changed a tube.

But the fixers predictably got to an extra cafe stop at Ampleforth first, by missing the quiet flat road east from Newburgh Priory with its two gates.

But the cafe was on holiday so for once we did not have to wait for opening and a quick drink at the school. The intended extra hill for the climbers was omitted and a good descent

through Sproxton and round the back of a busy Helmsley for the grind climb, with its many bikers and rally old cars past Rievlaux Terrace. The intended extra four miles to the top of Hawnby was omitted and the intro to the 1:4 hills and fine geological features of the area began. (photo) A good outside lunch and back under way after 45 miles at 2.30. Started with the big climb out then down Sneck Yate Boltby Bank. Home by six into the persistent headwind with excellent shared frontsmen. 81 miles 4000 ft. Richard P



