

Sunday, May 31, 2015

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 474

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### Medium Ride

Wheel Easy Route 148 (but via Clint rather than Hampsthwaite at the end). 34 miles. Climbed 670 metres/2200 feet. 8-10 Celsius. Wind up to 20 mph, westerly. Grey skies, but dry. The weather was very poor for the end of May, and that climbing figure looks high for a Medium, but we had a grand day out, on a route that doesn't get onto the calendar very often. Most of the climbing was in the first half of the ride. The names Scarah Bank and Dole Bank (after Markington) on the OS map are clues, as is the double chevron on the B6265 up to Risplith. The prize for surviving the chevrons was the café at Risplith, which is ideal for cyclists and at exactly the right point on the route.

I may have described the next bit of the route to the group as a short climb, and was soon revealed as the Sepp Blatter of Wheel Easy, with my clearly limited grasp of reality. It really wasn't much fun, a mile and a half slog up hill, dead into the wind. But it didn't dent our enthusiasm for a good route, and what goes up must come down, in our case for miles past Brimham Rocks, then Hartwith and Birstwith. One last hill, Clint Bank, took us up to Hollybank Woods, the Greenway, and home. Brilliant, thanks to everyone for making it such a great ride. Justin K



Well thank goodness that is over. It was not the drizzle, it was not the gale force wind in your face, it was not the autumnal temperature, it was not the seemingly endless climb up to Brimham rocks, it was not the wind stopping the bike and myself dead just in front of my trusty back front and side marker; it was a combination of all those factors. However on the bright side, leaping bionic Dave P as majestically as ever sorted us into groups; we set off; Dave(the other one) managed to make an escape to Siren Sophie's as soon as we reached Ripley; I cycled at exactly the pace I chose, as there was only Max and I admitting to being slow left; it stopped raining momentarily; we did not have to go and get an ice cream in the freezing winter conditions: the wind was behind us pushing us downhill for a couple of minutes; some nice Capaccino people warned us that there was a gale force wind at Brimham rocks and they had turned back; the torture finished and we were back for lunch at lunch time feeling we had done an Olympic style workout; we did it. Hope the speedy icecreamers managed to get back with out doing any wind biking or hang biking. CG

### Medium-Plus Ride

It was a Murky May Morning. Numbers were somewhat down, which was understandable due to the weather, but also helpful due to our lack of leaders. The long ride started from Pennypot.

Nobody wanted a short or beginners ride. So we were left with the Medium and Medium plus rides. Justin took the lions share of the riders on his ride, though Caroline did say she would perhaps detach a Poddling group from the ride if the weather deteriorated or the craving for caffeine got to much.

Dave P had six riders in his team, unfortunately for him they all looked lean and mean (not too mean) very fit (and young), compared with DP, but then doesn't everyone? Away went the magnificent seven to Spofforth, declining the cycle path because of the previous rain, so it was straight to Wetherby.

As Tim wanted to leave the ride about this time it was decided to have a social cup of caffeine all together, which is what club riding is all about. So in to Morrisons Cafe, after which the six headed for Bramham.

The continuous climb from Braham to Shadwell and beyond was in the face of a strong wind, and took its toll on an EG. Glyn left us for an appointment with a Sunday roast, the rest on to Five Lanes End, Weardley and Kirkby Overblow where the last three Dave P, Dennis and Steve stopped for a further caffeine intake.

But the blasted wind still waited for a solitary rider to climb out of the showground, and it was again a "Gotcha". Despite the elderly wingeing it was an excellent ride with experienced fit riders (way to go yet Dave lad). Dave P.



### Long Ride

There were only three takers for the long ride today with Richard indicating he might turn back for Harrogate early.

Phil and myself were keen to complete the ride and so the three of us set out for Grassington. The very strong westerly wind was not our friend and never before have we been in bottom gear riding down hill past Stump Cross Caverns doing around 6 mph flat out! A new plan emerged to do an early cafe stop in Hebden and very nice it was. After recovering some energy Richard headed south and the two remaining riders set out for Buckden. To our surprise the westerly wind was now travelling south down the valley making progress slow and hard. Electing for a sensible and steady pace and taking turns on the front we made it to the bottom of the climb. Then two things happened that were both good. The sun came out, but more importantly we picked up a very strong tail wind as we headed north east. With wind assistance we made good progress up the climb and were soon at the top. After our earlier struggles Cote De Cray seemed much easier than usual.

Our ride down Bishopdale was fast and almost effortless with strong wind assistance. We crossed the valley via Aysgarth and sped along to Leyburn. Fortunately there is payback in cycling as by this stage we were both quite tired. From Leyburn we took a series of quiet lanes, via Thirn to reach Masham for our second stop. The return to Harrogate took the "usual" direct route via the back of Fountains etc.

An invigorating and enjoyable ride with improving weather and in outstanding countryside.  
Statistics : 86 Miles, 6500 Ft climbing. Martin D

