

Sunday, July 12, 2015

Wheel Easy Ride Report 480

"Stretched" Short Ride Report

With the Men's Wimbledon Final stretching into the evening I think I had better write our stretched ride report. Stretched, you ask, well all of those on the ride were very happy to do more than the usual 15/20 miles, so four of us we set off from Hornbeam with the intention of following part of the medium route. At Farnham we were caught up by Malcolm whose U3A ride had nil takers so then we were five for coffee and cake at Boroughbridge, and we took the route via Marton to Aldborough with the great views of the North York Moors in the sunshine. Boroughbridge is in some disarray with gas main works causing road closures, but the good news was that Bowe and Co is now open on Sunday's in the summer. It is a small cafe but the cakes are beautifully formed! Then Sue, Elizabeth, Graham, Malcolm and I took the road to Roecliffe (see photo) and on across the bridleway to Copgrove. Approaching Knaresborough we paused for a drink where I said to much disbelief that they were all going to complete a great 30 mile ride. The distance may have stretched but the riders weren't. Well done everyone. I just can't see Federer holding this Djokovic serve much longer! Martin W.



Medium Ride

There was a group of around 24 medium riders, about a third of which wanted to do the shorter ride. Dennis was "persuaded" to lead this group and was sent off first. The remaining 16 or so were split into 2 and I was allowed to take the first group with Joe and Geraldine following with the rest. We went via the showground to avoid a few potholes and at Low Bridge picked up Nicky and Graham. The route was Farnham, and Arkendale but everytime we stopped to take a breather, Joe's group turned up to move us on! At least they all obeyed the plea not to touch the magic gates near Farnham! We all met up again at Ouseburn so we posed for a photo and thank you to the excellent photographer. Dennis's group went straight on to Thorp Underwood while my group turned left over the very bumpy Aldwark Bridge then right to Linton on Ouse and Beningborough, enjoying views seldom seen on a medium ride. (Note to Paul, Jeanie was waiting for us at the bridge and we looked after her!) Despite best intentions the other group was on our heels by the time we reached Beningborough Farm Shop. (Not to say anything about the 2nd group's backmarker doing her job at the back of our group!) There was 1 large table free so we grabbed it. However at this table we were only

allowed to eat food bought from the The Shepherds Hut or take aways in paper bags from the farm shop. Needless to say confusion reigned but the staff were lovely as were the hot dogs from the Shepherds Hut. The rest of the ride was done all together in changeable small groups. We passed through Whixley and Cattal where Joe and I had decided to exert our authority and go over the bridge and on via Cowthorpe but as we were leading from the back and the front of the group were at Hunsingore we had no choice but to follow to Walshford instead! At Little Ribston new rider Lizzie decided to wait there for Al to return with her car keys but she had done exceptionally well and was only allowed to stop if she promised to come again! At this point the ride split back into 2 different groups as Joe and Geraldine headed back through Knaresborough while I headed for Spofforth and Follifoot. Thanks to everyone for a great ride, Dennis, Joe and Geraldine for leading and Graham for backmarking for me. We had good weather, lovely views and the wind was not too much of a problem. About 46 miles. Liz P



Deviant Medium Ride

Thankfully El Butler needed to be back for lunch, Fiona was going out for lunch, I had a date with a Time Trial and a Curry, Sue O is nice and kind and Surjon just followed, Dave S and Paul B got started, so the self led shortened medium ride, was on. A perfect Time Trial Team. A good day for getting to Great Ouseburn, sunny with a following wind....and it is a bit down hillish, so despite having tried to get the long 45mile riders to overtake us, by going via the nature reserve in Knaresborough, we seemed to have to wait for them there, but sadly Paul B or Dave S were not with them. oooops. El Bulter then took over and led us home via a delightful route missing off several very large corners including Cattal and Hunsingore. At Walshford Bridge time constraints tempted Dennis, Surjon, and Fiona to surge off home via Knaresborough, exhaustion and inability tempted me and kind Sue O to take two more short cuts and corner cuts via Kirk Deighton, and the main Harrogate/Wetherby Road back home at a rather restrained pace. As a group we certainly would not have succeeded in a Team Time Trial, even though we did eventually get our team of 5 home after 35 plus miles and even the 39 mile shortened ride group got home in the end. Thanks everyone for your jolly company. CG



Gia's Medium+ Ride

Today's medium plus was something of a mystery ride with ride route details being closely monitored by Terry C who not only recced the route this week but also offered to help me out with it today. So exclusive that only Kevin Terry and I were there for the slower paced ride. Andy and the fast boys clearly made their way to Pateley as they had gone from tea Cups by the time we arrived

After Tea Cups where we sat outside, listening to the sheep being sold in the market, on a Sunday?? we set off along the road to Wath and on the climb which meets up with Silver Hill. One of those hills that a wise lady once told us no hill is too steep that I cannot walk with my bike! Terry king of the mountains made it to the top while Kevin and I did some on and offs! The views on the whole ride were spectacular, "just" 42 miles but plenty of hills and home in time to watch a wonderful Wimbledon Final.

There is potential for an away day starting at Pateley Bridge. Anyone interested? Gia.





Medium+ Ride

This was a ride by committee, Tony with the route info, Andy with "local " knowledge and Peter who really knew what he was doing + 6 with more trust than sense! Set off at a good pace with a niggling head wind across Stainburn moor. The sinister watchers at Forest Moor raised the gate for us as we headed to Stonehouse Inn and a gloomy horizon and a few spits of rain..After a testing hill up Fouldshaw Lane we could breathe easy down Yorke's Folly. Peter decided to make the descent a little more exciting with a neat rear wheel skid just so we didn't take it for granted. A pump came off in sympathy. A welcome stop at Teacups coincided with the sun coming out - best value cake anywhere. On to Wath and just after the route took a sneaky left turn uphill and much clattering of gears. A nasty little climb to Brownstay Ridge leading to some speculation how it came by its name. We were disappointed to learn from Peter that we had come up the "easy" way avoiding Silver Hill but declined to do it properly. We flew down to Fellbeck to tackle the last pull up to Brimham, knowing there was a great descent to the Drovers Rd and on to Ripley. No stop for coffee but briskly back along the Greenway - all still present and correct, and pretty well back for lunch. Thanks to all for your company. Apparently we did 40 miles and it was definitely hilly. Andy

Touring Day

A select group of 4 left the Penny Pot lay-by at 8.30 prompt. A hazy horizon didn't stop us enjoying the first climb of the day through Padside and up to Yorke's Folly allowing us to be first across the threshold at Teacups in Pateley - to enjoy a swift cuppa and the famous tea bread. We sauntered along Gouthwaite Reservoir and then faced the real climb of the day - out of Lofthouse. We lingered to enjoy looking back down Nidderdale and at the very top were rewarded with glimpses of Teeside in sunshine. A swoop down to Leighton Reservoir followed by a further swoop to Ellingstring. There was time to ponder what exactly was going on in the somewhat strange barn building!

A good lunch was enjoyed at Jervaulx Tea Rooms. The committee unanimously decided that a second look at Ellingstring was required and strangely this needed some resolve as it proved to be uphill all the way! The return route took in Fearby, Swindon Park, the fringe of Kirby Malzeard, Dallow Moor, Brimham Rocks and Burnt Yates. Thanks to Debby, Alan and Colin for a great ride. For those interested in the stats - 60 miles with 6055 ft of ascent.
Sarah C



Long Ride

I missed last week's long ride to Reeth as Mrs S had booked tickets for a festival concert on Sunday evening so where did we go this week, Reeth. The day started from Knaresborough with a total of 5 riders. We last Richard just after Leyburn and then, fortunately at the top of the climb to Reeth, John's gear cable snapped. This could have been the end of the ride for John but the good people at Dales cycle centre were able to fit a new cable while we ate lunch. We then headed back on ourselves for a mile, to start the real reason for the ride; a superb road from Grinton to Askrigg. This road features 8 uphill chevrons on the OS map and is one of the toughest climbs I've ever attempted. If it were on a Michelin map it would be coloured green to highlight the fantastic views of Swaledale going up and Wensleydale on the way down. The view of Semer Water was superb but stopping to take a photo wasn't an option. Back home for 6.00 after 100 miles. Thanks to all for making it a great day. Phil S.





Two Day Tour of the North Yorkshire Moors 8th/9th July

Day 1

An EGs' splitter group of 5 riders led by Peter Roberts set out on a tour of the North York Moors. The prompt start from Piccadilly Motors was delayed by a broken-down bus at Bond End traffic signals. Richard Leake volunteered to provide backup and transport our luggage to the overnight stay at Sleights. The group made good progress to the first refreshment stop at Easingwold, but the clouds were gathering on the horizon. As usual just as we were climbing Bulmer Bank the rain started and forced us to shelter for a time at Bulmer. Donning supposedly waterproof jackets we then cycled through persistent drizzle to Pickering for a lunch stop. By the time we had eaten the rain had stopped and we were on our way to Dalby Forest. The road through the forest was a proper metalled surface with amazing climbs and descent and scenery to match. At Hackness we now took on the steepest climb of the day. Fortunately half way up the climb we found that Richard Leake had tracked us down and was waiting for us. Richard then produced cakes for afternoon tea. Suitably refreshed we then set off to find some refreshing tea, sad to say the tea at the Flask Inn was not refreshing and doubt if it was even tea. Although the party was split between an hotel and a B&B it turned out they were only 50 yards apart. After showering and a change of clothes we had a good evening's entertainment at the hotel.

Day 2

Day 2 started with a small emergency that required Richard Leake to take our leader, Peter Roberts, back to Harrogate. Now leaderless we were totally dependent upon Garmin to get home. From Sleights we headed for Grosmont, the original route was to go via Egton but from previous experience Peter J new of a bridle path that bypassed the steep climb to Egton and brought us out at Egton Bridge. The path was a bit rough in places but Richard Pugh was in his element. We successfully negotiated Phil Stell's corner in Glaisdale. The ride made steady progress in the foothills of the moors along Eskdale towards Fryup Dale. We now took on the longest and steepest climb of the day starting from Danby castle to Ralph's Cross at Rosedale Head passing White Cross, Fatty Betty, on the way. The route so far had been sans tea rooms so we were eager to get to Hutton Le Hole but that was still eight to ten miles away, but thankfull it was mostly downhill. After refreshments in hutton Le Hole it was off to Harrogate via Nunnington, with a stop at Ampleforth Abbey for afternoon tea. Despite the rumours the road out of Ampleforth was open to cyclists. We were now in familiar territory and it was now nonstop back to Harrogate via Husthwaite, Brafferton, Boroughbridge and home. Unbeknown to us Richard Leake had been trying to travk us down for part of the day but due to poor telecommunications and speed of the group he never found us. Day 2 statistics were as follows, distance 70 miles, 3,945 feet of climbing, and 5 hours 45 mins travelling time.

Thanks to Peter Roberts for organising the tour and Richard Leake for transporting the luggage and keeping an eye on our progress. PCJ





