

Sunday, September 6, 2015

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 488

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### Short Ride

Ride report to follow.

### Medium Ride

Route 100

This was advertised as a hilly route, but 20 people were keen to give it a go. We agreed to split into smaller groups and reconvene at Little Almscliff. Once there, Bill kindly 'volunteered' to set off with a faster group and there was talk of meeting up at the Stonehouse pub. The more leisurely 12 made their way to Fewston, having said 'bye' to Gill at the Sun Inn [she said she was going home]. At Fewston we opted for the 'gentler' route up towards Timble. Though Martin sagely reminded us that we had to gain the same height. Then it was down, up, down and carefully over the A59 onto Hall Lane. Throughout the scenery and the weather had been stunning and both just got better. We all sailed cheerily along until we hit 'the steep hill'. However, we all made it to the top and then swooped down to Thruscross before crawling up to the Stonehouse pub. No sign of Bill's group, so we sailed on, found our way to Thornthwaite and Darley along lovely lanes. Then a final push out of Birstwith, before arriving at Sophie's. Bill's group were settled in the sunshine. We joined them and after relaxing in the warmth, the hills had faded into insignificance. Roy and Dave's order had been delayed, so in the end we left the pair there, plotting to stay 'a little longer'. The rest of us ambled back to Harrogate via Killinghall and the Greenway. The general consensus was that it was a challenging but great ride for such a lovely day. Thanks to Bill for leading a group and to Justin for keeping a careful eye on us from the rear. Alison N







### **Medium-Plus Ride (1)**

We couldn't have asked more from the weather. A glorious day with clear views over the Dales, making up for our lumpy route.

Having made short shrift of our cyclist's specials at Cobblestones cafe, we were just leaving when, with impeccable timing, the slower than steady group arrived.

Back up to Hebden and hard right down to Bolton Abbey where a slight navigational misunderstanding resulted in myself and the rest of the group taking different routes into Bolton Abbey (Yes, I know this is recurring theme for me in these reports) but were reunited at Cockpit Farm after which we chose our route home to be via Otley, Pool, Weeton and Kirkby Overblow. A great ride and great company. Thanks chaps! Ian N



### **Medium-Plus Ride (2)**

Having agreed with Ian that he would take the normal/faster group, a select group of 7 set off at a more moderate pace on what had promised to be a fairly longer hilly day. Although chilly first thing the weather and the terrain soon warmed us up and led to shedding of clothing layers accordingly. The route took us out of Harrogate to Little Almscliffe during which we became temporarily absorbed into the Medium Ride heading that way which provided a lesson in how not to cycle as a group! Fortunately no harm was done but with a long straggly line of riders a near miss with a motor cycle occurred and reinforced the exhortations from Gia to split up into small groups, particularly on busy roads. Having extracted ourselves from the Medium riders we pressed on over the A59 and up the never ending Duck Street, which, as a result of the sunny weather, was a little more tolerable than usual. At the top we came across Alan and three

companions, where a pleasant few minutes were spent offering him advice on how to slow his sons down and taking the first photo of the day. We resisted the temptations of the Stump Cross cafe and set about the lumps and bumps to Hebden and Grassington, taking care particularly at Dibbles Bridge. Our arrival at Cobblestone coincided nicely with departure of Ian's group and we partook of a variety of Baked Bean dishes, sandwiches and coffees and teas in a lovely sunny corner of the terrace at the rear. Reluctant though we were to move we realised we were less than half way yet and so with a slight change to the published route we crossed the river out of Grassington and took the Yorkshire Cycle route down the valley to Burnsall by which time it was very warm and certainly justified the decision to risk short sleeve tops. After crossing the river again we took the lovely quiet road down through Appletreewick and then up and down to Barden Tower and took a short break at the old oak tree just before Cavendish Pavilion, where some discussion took place as to the relative ages of the tree and yours truly, who by then was beginning to feel as old as the tree! Moving on we took the usual route past Bolton Abbey, across the A 59 and along the back road through Asquith to Cockpit Farm arriving just in time for last orders. Although there was some debate as to whether we could have crumpets the management were prevailed upon to produce these for those who wanted them along with toasted teacakes and tea etc. After some discussion on the various routes back a decision was taken to go for the quickest but probably the hardest and so we set off to Farnley and then up past Lindley Wood Reservoir to the tops above Beckwithshaw and then enjoyed a lovely swoop down Brackenthwaite Lane and home. The consensus among the Garmin group was 60 miles and 5000 feet of ascent, so well done to everyone and thanks for your company and being a great group. James G









### **Long Ride**

Morning coffee in Easingwold with toasted teacakes and smoked salmon with cream cheese on bagel was followed by afternoon tea at Ampleforth College with fruit scones and scones topped with cream and jam or vice versa.

Between these delights we rode a loop to Castle Howard.

To avoid erosion of cafe time we cycled the 80 mile route in just over 5.5 hours.

A wonderful way to spend such a beautiful late summer day in spectacular North Yorkshire scenery.

Thanks to all who joined me. Peter R



