

Sunday, September 20, 2015

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 490

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### Short Ride

10 riders chose the short ride. Several of the ladies were using the ride as preparation for the Harewood Triathlon next week. The route was via Burn Bridge to Kirkby Overblow, then to Wetherby, and back using the Sustrans route and show ground.

There were good views on the ridge road and a steady pace was maintained. At Sicklinghall ponds we stopped for a photo stop. Some runners doing the Stockeld Park loop very generously stopped and took the photo!

A copout through Stockeld was unanimously rejected and we pressed on to a Costa not much in Wetherby. Denis who had been making sure we hadn't lost anyone, had to get home, so missed the coffee.

The cycle path on the way back had plenty of family riders which was great to see. The group tackled the uphill of Follifoot and Rudding without even a groan. For a short ride this was 21 miles and theoretically outside the short ride limit!

But there were no complaints... or at least the leader didn't hear them!

The show ground was full of parked cars for the Flower Show but thankfully we had obviously missed the rush.

With much thanks to Dennis and Malcolm for helping with the ride. John R.





### **Medium Ride**

About 27 riders opted for the medium ride. With two leaders  $27 \div 2$  didn't equal safe, and no one would want to be halved, so the noble Justin was persuaded to lead a group. So now  $27 \div 3$  became a little safer. Thanks Justin you are gent and a star but we all know that. Ours was the last group to set off with 7 riders, due in part to poor counting I fear in one of the other groups (I blame previous governments' education policies), and one "who didn't want waiting for". One extra rider was aquired along the Greenway but before reaching the end we had lost one who decided the speed was greener in the second group. By the time we had climbed Scarrow Bank 2 of the group decided to join the "one that didn't want waiting for". We were now down to 5. During our descent of le col de Studley Park we were caught up by Justin's group which had set off before us! On arriving at Spa Cafe I became a victim of failure to observe the six Ps of planning and found the cafe SHUT! Justin's group coffeed at Booths whilst we select five were entertained by The Water Rat. Showing no loyalty to the plan of the day we

returned to Ripley via the Mountgarret sic. Estate. Ripley proved to be the centre for all things WE. A cycling confluence of the first of the medium groups (which had also naughtily not adhered to the plan of the day and contrived to arrive after us) and the medium plus ride. A babbling flotilla of wheels wobbled between pedestrians and family cycling groups in cheerful humour along the Greenway home. Today I learnt that all hares are not fast! I understand that the 3 that "didn't want waiting for" had a lovely gentle ride and only arrived back a mere 10 minutes in arrears. MG



### **Medium Ride Middle Group**

Ripley, Fountains, Ripon, Littlethorpe, Knaresborough. Riders: 11, in the middle group of three. Weather: a nigh-on perfect autumn day. The hiccup: Ripon Spa Gardens café was closed, just for the day, reminding us just how important it is to Wheel Easy. Booths was a good Plan B. Otherwise, the ride was like the weather, pretty nearly perfect. Many thanks to Liz for back marking, to Alison, Andrew and Liz for reminding me of the route at key moments, and to all for great company. About 32 miles. Justin



### **Another Medium Ride**

With nigh on 30 takers, Justin had to be cajoled by Max into taking a group. It's what WE's about. Thanks, Justin.

We led off to Ripley and Fountains (after waiting interminably for those Medium + athletes to depart ahead of us) and it looked as though there would be nowt for the report.

However, having decided upon Ripon as the caff stop, we arrived only to find Sun Parlour CLOSED! What happened to the WE Closed Caff Alert?

So, into Ripon and a fine welcome at Realitea, with good buns and even more interesting, and curious teas. Simon decided on the one infused with cinnamon, cardamom and cannabis [Are you sure? Ed.], sweetened with a mixture of honey, black pepper and ginger. Top that for weird.

Anyway we meandered back via Bishop Monkton and Mountgarret and did about 32 miles on a day that was supposed to be sunny but was occluded, and therefore cooler, most of the time. Paul B



### **Medium+ Ride**

After a splendid turnout of over seventy Wheel Easy members for the photo call this morning, Paul organised the rides and we regrouped. Such were the numbers today that the medium plus split into three groups, Paul and Gia agreeing to make sense of Peter's directions as we left the car park. We did quite well to get to Hampsthwaite via Knox and up to Clapham Green where a couple from Knaresborough took our team photo. Here excitement took over and we ventured on a route which eventually got us to Menwith Hill, with a few extra climbs. Thanks to Steve B's local knowledge and trusty Keith and Helen with a map. This is called collaborative group leading.

I was sure that Peter said we would get on to a ridge and keep our height but in getting there we climbed an awful lot of hills. Great views of course, little or no wind and an easy relaxed group to ride alongside.

As we entered Beverley having safely descended from Yorke's Folly we met the fast group who had vacated some space at Tea Cups. We joined Peter's group, some of whom admired our collection or should we say, pride of rohloffs.

After refreshments, we agreed that we had climbed enough hills today and with a second cafe stop at Harrogate Advertiser Cafe of the Year, Sophie's we sped off to Glasshouses and the main road to Hartwith Toll Bridge.

Another leisurely stop at Sophie's and back to Harrogate via the Greenway. 39 miles, great ride and well done Neeta for her first ride to Pateley. Thanks to everyone for their support and encouragement and a nice easy day out. Gia



### **Another Medium+ Ride**

After the massive, impressive turnout for the photo-op, the Medium Plus Ride today attracted 25 or so riders. Splitting into three like a well drilled army; an independent Vanguard was followed by the Main body led by yours truly, and a Rear guard led by Gia. We could have been Hannibal's Carthaginians crossing the Alps - but there were no elephants on these hills today. The main body started as 8 but dwindled to 6 for the return, as two free spirits tore away for adventures new. The route combined some classic Wheel Easy rides - Hampsthwaite via Knox, then up to Clapham Green and retaining the height all the way to Menwith and Forest 'School where we turned right and lost all our height in descending to Thornthwaite. What goes down almost immediately goes up via Padside and Heyshaw heights to the top of Yorke's Folly ( or Nought Bank Road, or Two Stooeps - take your pick). We paused to admire the views in all directions and take the opportunity to orientate ourselves before descending delightfully to Pateley and lunch in Teacups Cafe at the Cattle Market. Teacups was the busiest I can remember - probably due to the imminent Pateley show - and with paddocks resembling a 'carpet of sheep'.

After seeing the Van depart and the Rearguard arrive we retraced our route to Bewerly and then up hill to Glasshouses and then even higher to Brimham Rocks form Winsill. This lane is delightfully quiet but tricky and must be a shock for those on the Way of the Roses hoping for a simple ride into Ripon. After sympathising with two such victims we changed the route and followed them to skirt Brimham Rocks and enjoy the long descents via Warsill and Scarah Bank in to Ripley. there we joined the WE Medium riders back in to Harrogate via the Greenway. 37 miles, lovely still weather and good chat - between the hill climbs of course . Peter L



### **Long Ride**

A fine ride around Thirsk in late summer sunshine was enjoyed by 7 (sometimes 8) riders. Our numbers included a new rider, Ray, on a sturdy steed that had really seen some long distance action including a trip to Australia. I think that's a bit further than the 70 miles we proudly completed on Sunday but the flies were probably more bothersome. PS