

Sunday, October 11, 2015

Wheel Easy Ride Report 493

Short Ride

Nine of us made up the Short Ride team for today's ride in pleasant autumn weather. After passing the Black Swan at Burnbridge we turned up Brackenthwaite Lane climbing most of the way with one short steep section that brought the colour to our cheeks and muted the conversations for a while. Then we turned to Beckwithshaw where we had a discussion on the route and elected for the shorter version with the target of coffee at Sophie's in Hampsthwaite. Unfortunately that included the steep drop down Pot Bank and one of our number, Annetta, had something of a meeting with the road surface. Undaunted and still cheerful and chatty Annetta got back on and finished the ride showing true spirit. Over coffee at Sophie's there was lots of advice on improving the brakes and it seems a trip to Chevin Cycles is on the cards. The ride back through Hollybank Woods and along the Greenway was peaceful and glimpses of the sun made for a pleasant end to our 20 mile ride. Martin W.



Medium Ride (1)

This was a flattish ride of approx. 35 miles out towards Walton, but there was a leader short so Dave P volunteered to lead a slow group?? However, as there were some pre-ride discussions taking place!, the slow group set off first, out through Burn Bridge to Kirby Overblow where Nicky and Graham joined our group. Then on to Wetherby where Theo (who has yet to get back to his awesome potential) headed back to Harrogate, he was accompanied by Roy who very kindly cycled with him, as four wheels are better than two. Good to see you out again Theo, and look forward to an increased mileage on Wednesday. It was in Wetherby that we were caught up by the fast group (due to a technical problem on Roy`s bike, Honest!).

For some it was difficult to leave Wetherby without taking sustenance at Morrison`s but leading has its responsibilities, so onwards to Walton and Tockwith, unfortunately too early for the pubs to open, again we had overtaken the fast group, but while assessing pub opening hours they passed us. Then on to Cowthorpe and the cycle track to Wetherby, on which we again caught up the fast group, but they took an early turn off to Wetherby but we continued on the track to central (or is it downtown Wetherby).

The close proximity of Morrison`s was too much for the leader, who persuaded to riders to partake of their fare. The coffee was very good, however the toasted teacakes were slightly slower in their arrival at our table (JJ and DP sharing a plate of TT`s till another plate arrived). Then the super six headed back to Knaresborough via the B6164, at Little Ribston Nicky and Graham left us to head back to Kirby Overblow, leaving Dave P with Jill J, Jo and Lorraine to continue to Knaresborough.

Us Older Gentlemen have all the luck, or perhaps it`s this new aftershave I`m wearing. Thanks ladies for the excellent group riding, congratulations to Lorraine on her first Medium ride, and the way Jill J attacked the hills she must be on her Dad`s diet/training schedule, hope your friend was in Jo.

An excellent ride, good weather (Autumn Tint`s) and good company, and a few miles over the stated 35miles. Dave P



Medium Ride (2)

A fairly flat easy going ride to Wetherby and beyond, on a windless mild day. Perfect. Highlights were a trip round Hunsingore village, which is very beautiful with a large church which implies it has a more important past. Also finding out that swifts stay flying for 2-3 years from hatching to mating without ever putting their feet down. Enlightening!! -Neil A



Medium-Plus Ride (1)

Route 102 Dallowgill, Brimham, Ripon, Knaresborough. We were a group of 9 - Alan H, Liz F, Alison N, Sally, Justin, Peter, Alan, Lynn (on her first WE ride) and Liz P. We had to queue a long time to get out of Hornbeam and again at Ripley, the group ahead were seen at Brimham but then disappeared from sight apart from at Spa Gardens. There was no rain, little wind, a good dose of sunshine, lots of chat and fantastic views. It was a first for many not to pass the track at Dallowgill and use the road but the views made up for the extra climb. It was hilly but we all agreed it was worth the effort. Spa Gardens cafe did us proud as usual then it was home via Knaresborough. 44 miles. Many thanks to Justin and Alison for sharing the back marking. Liz P



Medium-Plus Ride (2)

A group of 8 set off on this popular ride Julie and Gia kindly also took a group, thanks to them. Kevin, Keith, Helen, Mark, Colin, Tim and Scottish Eric set off for Brimham via the Greenway, Hollybank Woods and Burnt Yates. A beautiful day and warmer than most of us had thought so a

fair bit of shedding layers went on before the climbs to Brimham. Colin of course took the bumpy track to Fellbeck whilst the rest of us took the road, he of course beat us and we all met up again. Pleasant riding with little wind we progressed over the moor where we had farewell to Colin who was keen on pursuing a rougher ride over the tracks off road. On towards Fountains where Helen unfortunately caused Kevin to have a puncture. She had earlier casually asked him if he had ever had a puncture on his new bike to which he replied no! And then of course he did, a quick mending and down to Spa for a very pleasant tea and cakes in the sun. Keith led us to the canal where we rode along the towpath (illegally apparently) and then over the bridge to Littlethorpe. Home via Markington, a really pleasant ride enjoyed by all 45 miles. Sue C

Medium-Plus Ride (3)

Our group of nine, eight ladies and Steve, enjoyed a great ride out to one of our favourite destinations, Brimham Rocks and great views of Dallow Moor with Dallowgill Moor and the Greycarth Monument in the distance. It was a perfect autumn day, gorgeous colours, little or no wind and a second introduction to Wheel Easy for Anne and Tracey who are planning great bike rides next year. We stood patiently in line at the visitor centre having been told by one of the guides that we should claim our free tea or filter coffee for having cycled in. The only condition was that we bought some food and after over 25 miles and lots of climbing we were all ready for sustenance. We returned via Littlethorpe and through the Mountgarret estate to cycle back along the Greenway. Many thanks to everyone and to Debbie for being my buddy leader. It was a beautiful day, great ride and wonderful company as always. 46 miles. Gia



Medium-Plus Ride (4)

Five riders opted for the slightly faster paced ride on such a beautiful autumn day. The first 6 miles along the Greenway to Holly Bank Lane was fairly brisk although slowed (except for Paul) on the long drag up to Brimham Rocks where we were joined by a 6th Wheel easy member. We followed the lovely scenic route, admiring the views, all the way to the Spa Gardens where we stopped for refreshments at the Sun Pavilion. After lunch we set off towards Bishop Monkton and then made a detour to Bishop Thornton (such deviants!) where we navigated the Montgarret Estate which turned into an off-road ride for a few miles before joining a lovely quiet tarmac road into Nidd.

At the Knaresborough - Ripley Road we turned left towards Ripley where we picked up the Greenway back into Harrogate.

Great Ride. Stunning Scenery. Fantastic Weather and Great Company. Need to clean the bike though after all that mud !! 45 miles. Julie E.

Long Ride

Five riders elected for the long ride. The weather improved as forecast from a slightly dampish start and turned into a stunning autumn day in the Dales. Richard P suffered a puncture on

Penny Pot and although he effected a repair a second slow flat near Stump Cross forced him to abandon. Progress up Duck Street and then onto Grassington took longer than normal due to the mechanical problems. However we reached our "destination" by 12.30 in Kettlewell at Zarinas where we were made very welcome. Indeed so popular is this cafe with other cyclists that al Bike parking was full !

Over lunch it was decided to return to Harrogate in a reasonably direct route and also return to Grassington using the delightful minor road via Conistone. We continued down Wharfedale to Askwith in quite beautiful conditions admiring the Yorkshire scenery and the lovely colours. The climb from Askwith and the hills near Fewston tested us after a reasonably hard ride. Peter J did a sterling job leading us down Penny Pot at times riding at 25-27mph ! Home by 4.30pm. A good route, weather and banter as usual.

Stats. 74 miles, 1805 Metres climbing and 13.5 mph average. Martin D

