

Sunday, November 1, 2015

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 496

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### Short Ride

Glorious weather for the short ride, no fog and rising temperatures. 6 riders set off through valley gardens and past oakdale. although Judith and John took their own root from Peny pot. Sarah, Corinne, Ruth and myself took a bit of main road to avoid going down and up again then to Swincliffe top, Tang, Clapham Green and back to Sophies for coffee. There we sat out the front and watched the guy Fawkes 10 go past, a mixed set of very fit runners. As they had monopolised holly bank we returned via Killinghall. 16 miles of very pleasant riding and company. Paul R



### Medium Ride

We were the slow lot, setting off through the showground in glorious sunshine. It's a bonus for the ride leader when there's chattering at the back – there's less need to turn round and check. And chattering there was as we enjoyed the autumn colours along the muddy Harland Way. To Walton and visibility down to 200m. Then, out of nowhere, came Dennis, who'd been with the first lot. They had stuck to the prescribed route and gone via Thorpe Arch nick but were dealing with a puncture.

Yaddayaddayadda.

Good, they're still there.

Refreshments at Tancred Farm where we were joined by the fast team.

Back out into poorer visibility and a distinct drop in temperature as we headed for Great Ouseburn.

Rabbit? Where's the rabbit? No rabbit.

The chattering classes had deserted us for a shorter journey home.

So, down to four, we arrived in Knaresborough where the fog had mostly lifted.

About 22 gentle miles plus a more speedy 14 miles. Paul B

### Medium Ride 2

What a beautiful November morning in Harrogate: warm, still, sunny – ideal for a bike ride. 15 takers for the medium ride, curiously indicating Cowthorpe on the web site, even though it didn't go to Cowthorpe. No matter. Paul B and Caroline agreed to take a sub-group of 7 and Geraldine and I took 8. There were loads of youngsters at the new Rugby ground opposite Ridding Park, obviously inspired by the excellent World Cup. Tall John had some mechanical problems with his front wheel when we passed through the showground, but he continued to Follifoot and Spofforth, and probably wisely decided to call it a day on the path to Thorp Arch, and Dennis left

shortly afterwards. By this time, the fog/mist had obscured the sun and most people put back on the layers they had taken off just before Spofforth.. Despite a brief hiccup by the leader in Wetherby, we passed under the A1 (doing our best to avoid the canine faeces for which the tunnel is infamous) and on towards Thorp Arch prison. We pressed on through Walton and to Rudgate. We glimpsed Paul and Caroline's group ahead of us, as they had taken a short cut at Thorp Arch, but Angela had a flat tyre at this stage. We tried pumping it up, hoping it would last until the planned coffee stop at Tancred Farm, but it didn't. A short discussion on the merits of various brands of puncture-resistant tyres ensued during the replacement of the tube. On to Tancred Farm, where Paul and Caroline's group were well ensconced, having hidden their bikes behind the café, just to fool us into thinking they had been and gone. The World Health Organisation's recent judgement of the carcinogenicity of processed meat didn't seem to have had a great impact on the choice of sustenance. Thence to Thorpe Underwood and Great Ouseburn, by which time our group had somehow dwindled to 5. Still no sunshine to be had on the way back to Harrogate via Arkendale, Ferrensby and Farnham, and indeed, the sun had gone from Harrogate when we arrived back.

A bit longer than advertised: about 38 miles. CPS.











### **Medium+ Ride**

As we gathered at Hornbeam in glorious sunshine we were warned that all points north south east and west were shrouded in the forecast mist. But the sun soon won through and we were treated to a wonderful warm day of sunshine, with magnificent views, lots of climbs a busy coffee stop at the Ramblers Cafe and all groups meeting somewhere along the route. Our group returned via Lindley reservoir, home in time for a late lunch. Many thanks to all my ride helpers and companions a wonderful autumn ride. 34 miles not the 40+ advertised but quality miles. Gia



### **Med+ Ride 2**

We were billed as the faster ride but in fact had a pretty steady day, apart from Black Hill, and other places unknown and far away. The group of eight had cohesion until Pool when Tony's freewheel showed signs of imminent expiry, and he returned home. Hope you made it OK Tony. Next to leave were Peter B, Rob M, and Julie E. for an assault on Black Hill, considered a step too far for the rest of us who gently soldiered on to Yeadon Tarn and then back to Chilli Whatsit cafe, where pandemonium reigned. They ran out of current teacakes on my turn!! Don't they know who I am?? Thank you Janet for sharing yours, gratefully received.

We managed to frighten ourselves in conversation with the thought of how long civilisation would continue if/when hackers close down our essential services. More of a subject for a grim EG ride I would have thought. I'll introduce the topic next Wednesday.

Rob and Peter elected to go on to Bolton Bridge; Julie and Mark were off home via Lindley, whilst Janet and I took the soft option of the Castely Dunkeswick route, where my front changer gave up the ghost.

Thanks to all for a very pleasant day out. Dave S.



### Extra Pics

A couple of pics accidentally missed from last week (apols).



### **Long Ride**

Four ride leaders, two (virtually) novice riders and one novice ride leader enjoyed spectacular scenery, thick fog and short-sleeves blazing sun, autumnal fiery red, orange and golds, shimmering blue reservoirs and the obligatory potholed, gravel-strewn 20% hills (up from Blubberhouses and Summerbridge). Very recent cycling converts Katie and Anne were incredible – this was their THIRD proper ride – and were magnificently supported by Eric, Phil, John and Ian. One slight altercation with a cleat, and a few steps on one impossible gradient was all; their road sense was marvellous, doubtless thanks to guidance from Gia and others on previous HWE outings. We'd hoped for 60 miles, but we ran out of time and weather; that fabulous descent from Brimham Rocks took us into thick fog, so we cut out Ripon and headed home through Ripley. Stats – 45.7 miles, 4,065 feet of up, average 12.5mph, calories (this will be person specific, but the women were interested) 1,506. A lovely route, and a bit different from the usual, apparently (Burn Bridge, Kirkby Overblow, Weeton, Castley, Pool, Otley, Weston Moor

Road up to Stoop Hill, Blubberhouses, Thruscross, Padside, Thornthwaite, Darley Mill, Dacre, Summerbridge, Hartwith Bank, Brimham Rocks & Ripley). The pictures don't do it justice. Very much enjoyed being allowed to lead such an esteemed and experienced bunch of guys and two women who are already brilliant cyclists. Till the next time (maybe even an EG, Eric!) Vanessa Bridge







