

Sunday, November 22, 2015

Wheel Easy Ride Reports 499

Due to an electronic "glitch", some ride reports may have been lost from our inbox. Please can you re-submit yours, including photographs, if it has not been posted below. Thanks, DS.

Short Ride

The short ride was a little longer this week, by democratic agreement. As ride leader, I felt somewhat of an imposter, as though (almost 10 years ago) I was there on that first ever Wheeleasy meeting/ride at Hornbeam, I haven't been on my bike regularly for some time now and was feeling a little 'creaky'!

Welcome back to D. - his second visit to Wheeleasy - we wish him well with his mission!

6 riders managed Hornbeam to Wetherby via Kirkby Overblow, Sicklinghall and Linton, where our cafe stop involved lots of bread - not all of which could be consumed!! We returned via the Harland Cycle Way only to be stopped in our tracks by a large tree - a casualty of the recent windy weather - right across the path! We debated attempting to move it, (as ride leader I offered to do my bit by videoing the attempt for posterity, of course), but somehow lifting our bikes over it seemed the group consensus in the end! Such a missed opportunity!

We encountered some rain on the return journey but no dampening of spirits! 23 miles in total. Good company, as always! Great views - even in winter!

Thanks to all. S.E.M.





Medium Ride Report

A cold day but that didn't deter fourteen riders who decided to take on the challenge of Weardley Bank. We had an easy run down to Pannal and then a taster climb up Drury Lane which gave us a taster for things to come and then down to Pool via Kirkby Overblow. And then it started, the road headed upwards and we ground our way up the bank. Everybody got to the top in good order if a little more breathless than they started.

Then an easy ride down to Eccup reservoir and a short walk up the lane behind the Grammar School which was too muddy to ride. After passing through Allwoodly, Wike and East Keswick, we came to the A659 to Collingham. This was a slightly unpleasant section with fast traffic and a double white line meaning close overtaking. That negotiated, we got to Wetherby where we went to the Shambles for a bite to eat and something warm to drink.

We avoided the railway track to Spofforth as it was thought to be too muddy and returned through the Deightons and Little Ribston. A few short climbs later and we were back in Harrogate.

A very enjoyable ride with good company. 33 miles. Al D

Medium Plus Rides

Despatched from a freezing Hornbeam Park by the rest of the Medium Plussers labelled as the fast group we duly tried to oblige, setting a cracking pace past the Monument, and found the Old School Room cafe at Rufforth empty, and waiting for customers. Speculation as to the arrival time of the "slower group" was cut short, when they were seen parking their bikes in the car park. Either the group titles were wrong, or someone had taken a different route!!

Beans and bacon butties (one "melt", whatever that's supposed to be) were the order of the day, with freebie hash browns for those fortunate enough to have chosen the bacon. Unique milk jugs in the fashion of small cows provided amusement, since it wasn't clear where the milk would emerge. "The udders" was the strongest suggestion, but it was wrong! Nobody tried the salt and pepper which had similar containers.

Onward and upward (although the ride was particularly flat for most of the journey). We were overtaken by a particularly quick echelon of Wetherby Wheelers, but stuck to the back of them for six or seven miles before allowing them to gently pull away. After all, they were near the end of their ride.

A brisk climb up through Sicklinhall and Kirby Overblow completed a most pleasant day out. Thanks to Mike, Michael, Mark, Paul and David for great riding company. 46 miles in all. Dave S.





Long Ride

Amazingly eight riders took part in today's Long Ride, a significant increase over the last few weeks. The ride itself was without incident and fairly straight forward. The hardest part was deciding which cafe/tea room between Ilkley and Stump Cross caverns to stop at. Finally we decided to stop at The Strid Tea Rooms, despite the inconvenient conveniences. Although we started in dull and damp conditions when we came out of the tea room we were met by brilliant sunshine that lasted until the end of the ride. Towards the end of the ride "The Boys" decided to compete in the Duck Street Sprint, this was then followed by a leisurely return to Harrogate. PJ

