

Sunday, February 7, 2016

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 510

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### Short Ride

There were only four takers for the short ride. Peter, Barbara and her daughter joined the leader but everyone knew where they were going!

The route took in many ginnels, eventually arriving at the outskirts of Harrogate on the Skipton Road. The puncture fairy then struck and Peter got a puncture from a sharp piece of pine cone!

It was at that point the rain started but it didn't last long. Past the barracks and down into Hampsthwaite with the wind behind us was a bonus.

'A table for four sir'... we couldn't miss Sophies for coffee and chat. We did however, miss another batch of rain.

Then Greenway home, avoiding the canine species and on some occasions their equally daft owners!

Sorry No photograph taken by ride leader but the group was great company on a cold, windy and sometimes wet morning. 15 miles. John R.

### Medium Ride

By the time that we were ready to set off from Hornbeam our leaders had not arrived so Gordon and I offered to lead the ride.

A group of ten riders set off mixed with several other rides. We eventually separated into our own group and headed up to Pennypot Lane. Some confusion over the route left us having to turn back to the turn for Hampsthwaite but after that we settled down. Down to Hampsthwaite and up Clint Bank to Burnt Yates by which time it had started to rain and blow. On to Shaw Mills and up the steep hill past Cut Throat Lane to Bishop Thornton.

At the Drovers cross road Gordon and Max decided that they had had enough of the wind and rain and turned off to head home through Ripley. The remaining group carried on down to Markington and fortunately the weather improved for most of the rest of the way.

We decided to carry on to Bishop Monkton and Burton Leonard as planned but then to return through the Mount Garrett estate to Ripley. Here all but one of us opted for a welcome cup of coffee and a warm up in the café.

28 hilly miles in mixed weather but everyone seemed glad to have got out for a few hours.

Andrew



### Medium Plus Ride

Medium Plus Group 3 - the clockwise ride. Ireland set off with determination and flair scoring two penalties and a try before Wales picked themselves up and almost were equal at half time despite losing their key player, Dan Biggar, to injury. Oh yes, we had a really good bike ride this morning by the way. We formed the third group of the Medium Plus ride and headed first of all to Ripon to Cafe Nero and Weatherspoons meanwhile letting the

showers pass. Then we regrouped for a ride up through the Deer Park, returned along the lanes to Ripley and along the Greenway. A photo stop proved the most hazardous event of the day as Dave S demonstrated the effectiveness of playing dominoes and all three riders in front just avoided an impressive mud bath. Finally homeward in short bursts of sunlight. A great ride. And a great rugby match ending in a thoroughly deserved draw. Wales and Ireland again demonstrating how rugby should be played - how about that Dave P? Martin W.



**Medium Plus - Late Starters**

Although the early weather was better than forecast, the day went downhill rapidly with a puncture before even reaching the starting point at Hornbeam for the deputy leader, who after a struggle with modern technology managed to convey a message of sorts to the group and set off to walk the rest of the way to Hornbeam. Fortunately this didn't delay the majority for too long and a select group kindly waited and helped change the tube which resulted in a late departure at 10.00 am. In view of the forecasted strong winds, a decision was

taken to reverse the route and re-assess at Brimham. Progress was made without further incident through Harrogate, down the Greenway to Ripley, through Holly Bank woods and up and down a few hilly bits to Brimham. At this point the wind was picking up and in view of the forecast and late start we diverted round the Rocks, took the right turn towards Sawley Bank, but then swung right and left to pick up Watergate to Fountains. After a welcome caffeine break at the Visitor Centre the usual swoop down through the Deer Park was enjoyed with a good view of one of the herds. We then headed home against the wind through Ripon, Littlethorpe, Bishop Monkton and Occaney, where we turned to take the back roads to Knaresborough through Lingerfield and deliver James home and before heading back to Harrogate. Thanks to the group who waited for me, helped change my tube and delivered me home! 40 miles or so in good company and in the event not to horrendous weather. James G

James Grimshaw and I decided that the route today should be reversed to try and gain the benefit of a predicted tailwind across Dallow Moor. I led the faster medium plus route consisting of Richard, Paul and Tony. After sharing the route with the Long group as far as Burnt Yates, we headed up into the showers and gusts over the moors. As planned, Richard headed home on his own soon after Brimham. The rest of us enjoyed some brief tailwinds into Grantley and then a slightly-improvised route into Ripon. The Sun Parlour Cafe in Spa Gardens turned out to be closed for a winter break until 13th Feb so we ended up in Oliver's Pantry (the food there is excellent - I can recommend the fish finger ciabatta!). We deviated from the planned route home by cutting across to Markington in order to come into Harrogate via the Greenway from Ripley and avoid the trudge up Knaresborough Hill. A good ride today despite the showers and gusts, with 45 miles completed. Michael I.

### **Long Ride**

Well, despite the poor BBC forecast, 4 of us stuck with Plan A - Masham via Pateley Bridge, Lofthouse and Trapping Hill. In light showers we rode up to Brimham Rocks, catching the Medium Plus group and swapping places a couple of times. The wind wasn't too bad really and these reasonable conditions continued until we got to Lofthouse. And that was the end of the rain for the day - hurrah! A five minute break and off up Trapping Hill. Phil was still under doctor's not to overdo it so only did part of the climb and then returned to Pateley. The rest of us steadily continued up to the cattle grid, seeing 25% at one stage - hard work! But a lot of the road was thankfully dry, so we had no grip problems. At the top it was blowing a hooley so we didn't dawdle and roared on downhill towards Masham. This was a great descent, though we did feel sorry for 3 riders going the other way. One was walking and the other 2 were clearly finding it difficult. After baked beans etc at Johnny Baghdad's we headed off into the teeth of the gale up Thorpe Road towards Grewelthorpe. This was seriously hard work!! Near Ripon, we headed up to Fountains and then on to the Greenway and home. 60 miles completed, around 5000ft of climb and some tired legs. All in all, a good day's ride in some tricky conditions. John H