

Sunday, February 21, 2016

Wheel Easy Ride Report 512

Medium Ride

We start off with five and head out towards Little Almscliffe. There was wind and yes it gets harder. Jo gives up at Beckwithshaw as we struggle with the gusts. Then when the wind blows it blows, not quite a Raymond Briggs post nuclear one but not fun. Got mixed in with the Double Dave's medium plus group by the top of Little Almscliffe before setting off again.

We'd just mentioned about how sometimes it is better climbing a hill in the shadow of the wind, to turning your face into it as you breach the ridge, and this was one instance as we fight to continue on to Norwood. Surly Paul made a good windbreak for me but when I turn to see where the others are, they appear some hundred metres back, some on some off their bikes in a formation across the road like a protest barricade. It was getting dangerous where there was traffic.

The four of us mediums carry on, John left us at the Pennypot turning, and Andrew, Paul and me hurtle down Delves Ridge to Hampsthwaite and then to Ripley for a timely coffee provided with no delay today. After keeping control all route I get blown off the path going across the field leaving Ripley.

Exhilarating and Invigorating. Paul R

Medium Plus Ride (1)

As designated ride leader there is some responsibility to turn up at Hornbeam whatever the weather. And Wheel Easy members continue to turn up whatever the forecast. Today's warnings of 50 mph winds did not deter several hardy souls and so after John had completed his announcements we set off. Martin, Alan, Jill, James, Paul and Gia decided to "keep our heads down" by riding to Burn Bridge and Brackenthwaite Lane. Here Martin and Alan decided to head for Wetherby and sounds as though they had a good side wind most of the way. The remaining four rode towards North Rigton with gusty side winds and on to Almscliffe Crag and on down to Braythorne and Leathley where we had a good following wind to take us to the Pantry at Pool. We had avoided the rain, the sun came out on our return journey via Castley, Pool and Kirkby Overblow, it was mild and strangely exhilarating to be out on the bikes. We arrived home safely with about 28 miles ridden. Gia



Medium Plus Ride (2)

In what way could you say that I have something in common with Oscar Wilde's Ernest.?

Well I'll tell you.

I used to think I suffered misfortunes, and when I "lost" Jill on a ride through Ripon a couple of years ago, that's what I put it down to.

However, today I graduated to careless, when I "lost" Rob Moody.

Five of us famously plugged it out up Norwood braving horrendous gusting sidewinds, but when we saw the Medium riders get off and walk, and not up a hill, we knew it was time to rethink.

Sadly Rob was so far ahead he was out of communications either by whistling or Vodafone.

We beat a hasty retreat back to Dave P's where we were forced to eat biscuits and drink coffee laced with just a drop of something from the North.

We had a great day out, the usual camaraderie and good humour prevailing at all times, and 12 solid miles! Rob got home OK. Thanks also to Roy, Dave P, and Michael for your company, and stories.

Gia was right. Dave S.



Medium Plus Ride (3)

Report from the "lost" Robert Moody, (Billy...or is that Robert no-mates)!

We got to Stainburn, had a drink/photo taken then Dave Preston and Roy decided to turn back due to the wind, 3 of us decided to carry on, we were getting attacked by the gales and I eventually stopped with the Medium Group as they were turning right to head towards Menwith, I couldn't see Dave or Michael, I waited for about 5minutes then saw a yellow jacket, on the descent, assumed it was Dave and set off down the hill to Fewston-Swinsty (where we usually have a drink/toilet break). I waited for about 10minutes there, as they didn't show I assumed they'd turned back due to the wind (which was bad in places). I made it through Timble then on the climb up the hill towards Askwith bank got hit by 2 big gusts which pushed my into the verge, luckily I got my left foot down so was ok! I then had to pedal down Askwith bank(!) and into the wind to Ilkley, looped round along the main road back to the iron bridge, went over that and was blown back to Otley which was nice. I then rode back to Bramhope and home to Cookridge (43 miles in total). Robert M

Long Ride

Well, where were you guys? The other rides all had customers but it was Billy-no-mates for the long ride! I decided this was a ride that had to be done so set off at a steady pace to leave something in hand for the windy bits. Across to Hampsthwaite was ok, and there was a strong headwind up to Brimham Rocks but it was still doable. Just before joining the Pateley road it became a bit wild, and I did object to having to pedal on the 12% **downhill** at Fellbeck! However, the road across to Kirkby Malzeard was great! No traffic, 40mph without trying. At Laverton the snowdrops were in full bloom and looked impressive.

I can't recommend the waffles and maple syrup at Johnny Baghdad's - too high GI and no lasting effect. Over into Boroughbridge it was getting to the big headwind at times but I was dreading the right turn at Marton-cum-Grafton towards Knaresborough. It wasn't pleasant but could have been worse. Back at Hornbeam, I felt as though I'd just done 45 out of the 60mils going uphill! But it was a good ride, not much rain, even some sunshine at times, and worth doing. John H (aka the Hardman)

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1x 3.70	+3.70
Waffle & Syrup	
***TOTAL	*5.50
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