

Sunday, March 6, 2016

Wheel Easy Ride Report 514

Short Ride

As I say every year it is mother's day every day in our household and if you believe that you'd believe anything. However Mothers' Day dawned without wind, frost, snow or rain.....so a good start. A magnificent seven decided to do a short gentle pedal around the edge of Harrogate. It was lovely to see everyone looking so keen and enthusiastic, and particularly good to see Bridget who'd been busy working and skiing, Jen, who I had not seen for at least 2 days and had been out as regularly as possible all winter, Nicki and Graham who been trying to keep warm, young Andy who had not been out since October, and Lynda Mc. who has recently been ill. So our route today took in a view of E.G.s (Did they think it was Wednesday?) saluting our arrival at Low Bridge. Four deer rushing for cover across a rust and copper coloured countryside as their panic stricken friend managed to escape the captivity of a wire fenced field, were observed from the distant road to Scotton. Nicki had to be restrained when trying to climb through the window of the rather too inviting Guy Fawkes pub. The cafe at Ripley had transferred from a squashed dark building to a events room.....which I have to point out, so lovely was it, it was like popping upstairs to one of the Ingleby bedrooms. After a pleasant chat and coffee etc. we headed home after Bridget, who'd gone home to prepare for work, along an almost empty extremely pleasant Greenway. Thank you Andy for your backmarking, everyone else for your front, side, middle marking and your company. What a magnificent seven. Round about 20 miles gently ridden. 11208 paces, 8.3 kms, 2068 calories used, none consumed, 48 floors climbed. What a load of rubbish from my fitbit. Now I am off to win the Maddison with the medium ride leader at the velodrome London. CG

Medium Ride

As there were 13 for the medium ride we split into two groups, a faster group of 7 tortoises, who set off first, and 6 snails in the slower group (or were we!). Along the Greenway we picked up Gordon and Allison. At the top of Holly Bank Geraldine had an issue with her gears which gave us all chance for a breather. After the drop into Birstwith we followed the valley road uphill to Darley and at this point a small deviation to the planned route was undertaken - the reason "fat boys don't do hills but maintain altitude" however after about about a kilometre we were back on track in the direction of Thornthwaite. A left turn took us up "My love lane" , however there was no love here for me because "fat boys don't like hills". Thanks for waiting for me at the top. I had planned for a lovely downhill sweep into Hampsthwaite but about a kilometre beyond Menwith there was the cry that we had lost riders so three of us turned around to find out what the problem was and provide support. We eventually came across a small peleton of tortoises and snails to be told that Joe had an issue with his chain, was being supported by several of the medium tortoises and would meet Geraldine at Sophie's. We were interrogated by the tortoises as to how we had managed to get in front of them, we replied "fat boys don't do hills"! Fortunately it was a good job that we did so that they could provide support for Joe. After the second half of the sweep into Hampsthwaite the majority of the melange of tortoises and snails retired to Sophie's to nibble lettuce. The remaining five returned home via Killinghall. Hope the rest were not chased out of Sophie's by irate Mothers looking for their tables. Thanks for turning out - about 27 miles. Max.

Medium Ride (Version 2)

Thirteen presented themselves for the ride. We split the group in two with Max taking seven and myself setting off first with six.

It turned out that the route was rather lumpier than anticipated but our riders acquitted themselves remarkably well.

On the way back to Hampsthwaite, congratulating ourselves on our efforts and resting tired muscles, we found the other group was in front of us! It transpired that Max had taken a short cut, thereby eliminating much of the hillier stuff.

Our group had hardly digested this deceit when we came across Joe with his bike on the roadside having done something kinky with his chain. A small crowd gathered, collectively shaking their heads in amazement that he had managed to get the chain into such an awkward place. With much encouragement and some firm but gentle tugging the chain was extricated and we accompanied Joe back to Sophie's to find the rest of the group. That is the rest of the group without Max, who had fled in shame.

I wouldn't say that Mothers' Day had adversely affected the service at Sophie's but, by the time my panini arrived, I had drunk two-and-a-half gallons of tea, necessitating several pit stops on the way home.

In all it was a fine day with no wind or rain and, let's face it, there is nothing as satisfying as the pitter patter of tiny hailstones on your helmet as you haul your body up a 15% gradient. Ian N



Medium Plus Rides

Ride led by the Admirable Grimshaw. 8 of us set off towards Goldsborough and then a new route from Arkendale to Staveley. Pleasant weather considering the past week with little wind and plenty of sunshine. On to Boroughbridge and then a walk over a dilapidated Thornton Bridge. Arriving in Raskelf after 25 miles we decided that The Purple Partridge would be a good place for a cafe stop. Unfortunately Janet and John were too speedy and had got ahead of the group, I hope they had a nice tea with lashings of ginger beer and had as much fun as us. First the magnetic fishing game, then excellent breakfast rolls and some free cakes donated by a family who couldn't manage them. With 3 stalwart EGs in the peloton we did well to have only one extended (two cups of coffee) cafe stop, they informed us they can have as many as 3 stops for a 60 mile ride! The sunshine continued for our journey home still floods aplenty in the fields as we cycled through Tollerton and across Aldwark bridge and on through Whixley, Cattal, Walshford and Little Ribston. There we split some for Knaresborough and some for Follifoot, thanks to James for leading and Helen, Dave P, Bill and Roy for pleasant company the longest ride of the year for most of us:- 57 miles Sue Couture







Long Ride

A dozen riders joined the leader but despite the bad omen the morning's ride was enjoyable and uneventful until we discovered that neither Masham cafe could accommodate us.

This encouraged some mutinous suggestion to head for Ripon but this were temporarily quashed by honouring each cafe with half our number.

But the seeds of rebellion were further nurtured over lunch and seven headed for home whilst the remaining team enjoyed superb views from Ellingstring before descending to Jervaulx and West Tanfield where Phil headed directly back and we turned right to Fountains and a very welcome tea and cake.

We recorded 67 miles and enjoyed an excellent ride in much better weather than expected but the leader failed on three counts, by forgetting to pay his membership fee before the start, forgetting to take any photo's and returning to Harrogate with only 3 out of 13 riders.

Thanks to all for a great day and hope to see you next Sunday. Peter R.

Footnote: The escapees had a lovely ride back to Hornbeam, surprisingly covering new ground for some old timers. 60M+ recorded. DaveS.