

Sunday, March 27, 2016

Wheel Easy Ride Report 516

Short Ride

Six shorties today, Dutch visitor Jan ('Yan', male), Debbie H rediscovering her cycling legs after a recent knee op, globetrotter Jean B and Lynda N, not long back from Cuba (and in Jean's case 5 months in many other countries), Peter B and me.

Planning a clockwise ride to Wetherby we followed the Showground path to Ridding Lane and up to Follifoot where our plans were interrupted by a noisy puncture, only Debbie's second in 7 years cycling with Wheel Easy. A furious battle with the outer tyre ensued, but a team effort finally produced a successful repair and we celebrated with a mini chocolate Easter egg or 2 each and a photo.

We passed Spofforth and soon reached Little Ribston. Now the blustery winds were blowing dark clouds our way (though nothing like the black stuff above that's chucking a hail storm at my window as I write this) and we decided to turn left to Knaresborough instead of right to Wetherby. By the time the downpour arrived 5 of us were having coffee and toasted tea cakes in the warmth of the Marigold cafe, while Peter was probably home or well on his way, in time for an Easter egg hunt. We waited till the sun reappeared before tackling our favourite hill back to Harrogate. 15 miles, which suited me and I think all of us all very well. Malcolm



Medium Ride

Only 6 riders for the medium ride this morning, was it due to the change in the clocks? Sir John left us at Occaney leaving Sue, Bridget, Alison and Jill following the leader in a more direct route to Boroughbridge. At Boroughbridge Sue and Bridget opted to stop for coffee. Jill and Alison continued following the leader on the prescribed route - would they get back before the weather turned? The wind was getting up and it looked like they might manage it but to no avail and the heavens opened in Knaresborough but it was only a short shower. At the top of Knaresborough hill we went our separate ways.

Sorry, no photograph I forgot my phone.

Thanks for a great Easter ride, Jill J.

Medium Plus Ride

Even the promise of stormy weather didn't deter eighteen stalwart Medium Plussers, and off we went in two orderly groups of nine. Downhill all the way to Ripley, and then, wonders of wonders, down wind pretty much all the way up to Dallowgill. The moors were a splendid, if slightly windswept sight, and we were happy doing what we love. Puncture in Grantley, then off to Fountains busy tearooms, where there wasn't a bean, or a toasted teacake to be had; someone have a word with them; they didn't know what their customers want. All the same, it was pretty busy.

Communion with our other halves, (Gia's lot), then off to Hornbeam and back in good time for domestic obligations.

Yet again, a great team; thanks all for enjoyable times. Count your blessings, and see you next week. Dave S.



Medium Plus Ride part 2

Today was another example of a day of changing forecasts and a day when were it not for Wheel Easy I would not have been encouraged to venture out. But once again as ride leader you have no choice but to turn up and sort of hope! Bright sunshine and a following wind led us well down the Greenway with the odd side gust of wind and we met with Dave's group at Ripley. Sailing down through Hollybank Woods we spied Sir Thomas and very much hope that he was impressed with the courteous and considerate Wheel Easy cyclists. The route to Brimham was sheltered and wind assisted. I had the added benefit of a mountain biker who kindly gave me an additional push up the hill, thank you Simon! He was the guy who ten years ago had to push me up the hill at Farnham which was far too steep for me!

At Brimham we celebrated with Belgian mini chocolate Easter eggs supplied by my sister who sadly was unable to join us on the ride today. We enjoyed the sugar fix, thank you Ruth!

The ride past Brimham was as glorious as ever with sweeping views and changing light as the clouds and sunlight scurried across the landscape. Paul left us shortly afterwards with an appointment with grandchildren and Easter Eggs while the rest of us cycled over Dallow Moor with an exceptional boost of wind behind us on the nasty uphill climb.

From the top it really is plain sailing and with reassurance from James that I was going the right way we arrived at the visitor centre at Studley with hundreds of others. Most of them must have been occupied with searching for eggs as we joined Dave's group for welcome refreshments.

Mike and Michael (welcome to Michael on his first Wheel Easy ride) returned by the prescribed route whilst the rest of us cycled back via the Drovers and the Greenway.

This ride is one of my favourite Wheel Easy rides and we felt really lucky that we had hit the best of the day.

Thanks to Andrew, Maris, Liz F, James, Mike, Michael, Sue and Paul for a great Easter Sunday ride. Gia



Long Ride

Four riders were tempted to take part in the Long Ride. Despite the weather forecast the weather was bright and sunny with a strong south easterly wind, but would it last? The ride out to Sheriff Hutton was uneventful, but zig-zagging across the Vale of York meant we alternated between tailwinds and headwinds. Fortunately we had the assistance of a tailwind when climbing Bulmer Bank. We stopped for refreshments at The Yorkshire Arboretum, near Castle Howard. Now it was onto Brandsby where we turned for home and into the gusty headwinds. Up until now we had only experienced a minor shower, would our luck hold? Riding from Easingwold to Boroughbridge we could see the storm clouds gathering and then leaving Staveley we were engulfed in a massive hail storm. The temperature promptly dropped to 1.5C and we all returned to Harrogate feeling very cold and very wet. Peter J

