

Sunday, April 3, 2016

Wheel Easy Ride Report 517

Short Ride

Just over twenty riders opted for the short ride. There were regular riders, returning members and new members. Caroline and Jenny kindly offered to lead a group to Kirkby Overblow where both groups joined for a ride along the lanes around Netherby and Kearby. After Walton Head Lane we cycled along Swindon Lane, Spring Lane, Wharfe Lane, Chapel Hill and Gill Lane. For many of the riders this was a new route. At the end of Gill Lane Caroline and Jenny led a group to Wetherby for coffee while eight of us completed the 16 mile ride and headed for coffee at Crimple Hall. An enjoyable morning and thank you Caroline and Jenny. Paul



Medium Ride

Dull and overcast at Hornbeam at 9.30 am, but very little wind. Fifteen takers, including two newcomers, Margaret and Stephen, for the hilly medium ride to Otley. Alison Noble kindly agreed to lead a sub-group to make numbers manageable. Leadhall Lane, Burn Bridge and briefly on the A61 to Walton Head Lane. Not much of a view because of the mist and general dullness. At Kirkby Overblow Angela, Nicky and Graham joined us. Normally we go left towards Sicklinghall, but today we turned right down the hill back towards the A61. Lots of cyclists around. Short stretch on the A61 then right to Dunkeswick, Weeton and Wescoe Hill. More cyclists around as we went through Castley to the junction with the A658 in Pool. Max decided to do his own thing at this point, and I think he went straight over the crossroads towards Leathley, thus cutting out Otley. The rest of us crossed Pool Bridge and turned right on the main-ish road along the south side of the Wharfe towards Otley. We had earlier decided on the café at the Garden Centre on this road, as it was able to accommodate the fifteen-or-so of us with ease. A brief discussion on the route back took place, and we decided to avoid the loop via Farnley and Lindley bridge, "because it is bloody hilly". The weather had improved markedly whilst we were in the café, and the sun was shining when we emerged. Alison led us on a neat route round the back streets in Otley, and the route took us over the bridge and right along the north bank of the river, up and then down towards Leathley. Right on the small, winding, hilly road to Stainburn and Almscliff Crag. At North Rigton Angela left us, and we climbed towards Beckwithshaw. At the 'top' we turned right into Brackentwaite Lane and sailed down to Burn Bridge, and then back the way we came along Leadhall Lane to Hornbeam. About 32 miles. Joe



Medium Plus Ride (1)

A core of 7 riders set off from Hornbeam at a brisk pace. We decided that Beningborough was too soon for a coffee break and continued to York. Paul the plumber took a tumble in the slimy conditions on the cycle path approaching York, but was apparently unscathed. Rejecting the Rowntree Park café, we headed over the Millennium bridge for Cycle Heaven, where the facilities and catering were much to our liking. The homeward journey was pleasant in the sunshine but the Showground hill unwelcome as ever. David W

Medium Plus Ride (2)

10 riders set off in the gloom heading for Beningborough Hall. Quite chilly to start with only Gia braving shorts - foolish we thought- but she had the last laugh. We did eventually spot the golden orb trying to break through the clouds. An uneventful ride to Beningborough at a fair pace, here we left Gia and Steve, the rest decided to head to Cycle Heaven café/shop.

A very pleasant route along cycle route 65 the path was quite muddy due to past floods but not too many problems. Over the river bridge carrying our bikes and then along the river bank again.

On to Cycle Heaven café here we came across David and the fast group who had also decided to give CH a try. We would all thoroughly recommend Cycle Heaven -speedy service, super cakes and we brought our bikes inside for safe keeping. I will certainly be back there for some more Lumberjack cake- yummy.

Back across the racecourse and a much warmer trip home the co-leaders neatly placed at the back of the group. It was nice to bump in to Steve Price in Spofforth he is thinking of returning to Wheel Easy after a spell on the dark side (Cappuccino)!!

Shedding riders as we returned towards home first Sir John then James followed by Tim. Jill and Monica off towards town leaving Colin, Janet and me to Hornbeam. A pleasant ride 57 miles at a good pace very enjoyable thanks to all, co-leader Monica and especially James for his invaluable knowledge of York. Sue Couture



Medium Plus Ride (3)

Eight of us set off from Hornbeam as the second medium plus group.

Arriving at the farm shop in Beningborough we were joined by Steve and Gia from the first group who were cutting their ride short to watch the cricket. After some tasty sausage butties and our caffeine fix we headed to York.

Dave P led us to the bike shed, a trendy cyclist's café, where you could have your bottom bracket serviced whilst having biscuits and a brew!

We then meandered to Marston Moor where we had a banana break before returning via Spofforth to Harrogate. 57 miles covered in mainly glorious spring sunshine with great company. Thanks. Bridget.





Long Ride

12 Riders opted for the long ride on what promised to be a warm spring day. We used the Greenway to Ripley and then made our way slowly up to Brimham. It was surprisingly cold at around 5°C but the climbing soon started to warm us.

The ride temporarily split into two groups, one taking an early stop at Teacups the other aiming for a stop at the top of the hardest climb of the day "Peat Lane". There were some comments about the "road surface", "steepness" etc. about Peat Lane. However it turned out to be a magnificent climb, the only problem was overtaking a herd of sheep which were only slightly slower than the Wheel Easy riders !.

After our stop we quickly descended into Wharfedale. The sun came out and the long distance views were stunning. Following a photo stop we sped down to Bolton Abbey and onto a further stop at Cockpit Farm. Three riders opted for the more strenuous route via Langbar.

The stop at the farm was taken outside in glorious sunshine and we then rode a little tired back to Harrogate via Rigton.

As usual with Wheel Easy rides, great company, an enjoyable route and good topics of conversation. Martin D



