

Sunday, May 1, 2016

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 521

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### Short Ride

Today's short ride saw a small group of 6 including myself setting out in damp conditions but as we were speeding down the Showground road, it started raining so by the time we reached Rudding Lane, the small group decreased to 4, saying an early finish to John and Judith. We continued on into Follifoot and over Wetherby Road, along the bridle path towards Thistle Hill. A coffee stop at Knaresborough and then home. A slightly wet ride but thanks to Sue, Lynda and Ruth for your company. SueT



### Medium Ride

Sack the BBC weather forecasting team! As much as we love our national treasures they keep getting it wrong and the rain arrived 3 hours early. Notwithstanding the lack of clemency in the weather some thirteen of us (don't worry about the number 'cos two others were on route to join us) set off on the prescribed route which we followed to the letter, the sun came out and blazed down on us, causing us to search for shade, and the ride was incident free. Well that was going to be the story because we assumed that the aircraft relaying the ride coverage to the world wouldn't be serviceable. Alas it was, so now the truth. Early analysis of the route had revealed that if we returned from Walshford to Wetherby for coffee the ride would be straying into 40+miles territory and beyond the range of medium rides. Concerned that we all might be turned into pumpkins, not to mention the cold and rain, it was unanimously agreed that there would be a route diversion to take coffee at Thorpe Arch TE which was miraculously at the halfway point. The planned route was then followed save the return to Wetherby. At Little Ribston the Peleton split with half going to Spofforth and Rudding Park for the return home with the other half going via Knaresborough. Key points of the ride: Joe didn't make it after suffering a mishap in the gym (you can't hone what is perfect Joe, speedy recovery); that recovery machine himself El Butler had the audacity to overtake the ride leader on the hill to Kirby Overblow; Geraldine overshot the café turn off; Dave managed to "ping" two spokes (hope you gave Halfords hell) and Nicola was nursing an aching knee (hope you are feeling better and don't worry your proposed ride is only 60 times as long!) This ride should have been led by Captain Horatio Paul but due to mysterious happening whilst at sea he has been incapacitated, speedy recovery Paul. I would like to thank my parents and my agent but will suppress that urge and save my thanks for Justin, back marker extraordinaire. 34miles with a back wind all the way.

I must also record that two ethereal shadows followed us and the spirit of the ride, and whilst never seen were in close contact, knew our every move, made mystical detours along magical lanes to outflank us and arrive home first. Thanks for your company. Max

### Medium Plus Ride

There was a lot of interest in today's route and Peter J kindly, and promptly, took a cohort of Fast Boys. I took the second group of Quite Fast Boys and Keith and James took a further two groups. So,

"'Twas brillig and the slithy toves  
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe;  
All mimsy were the borogoves,  
And the mome raths outgrabe and nine of us headed out on a slightly grey day via The Greenway, Drovers crossroads and through Sawley. (I just wondered what predictive text would make of The Jaberwock!)  
En route the groups had expanded and contracted and I think I had lost one and gained two by the time we reached the top of Dallowgill Moor. This is a delightful, if challenging route and the Greycarth Monument loop was the icing on the cake, despite a bit of drizzle in the air. We persuaded the Quite Fast Boys to dash on ahead and they promised to save a place in the queue at Fountains and not eat all the cake. We did in fact pass them at one point, fixing Darcy's puncture and marvelling at Declan's stylish descent from the moors. It was felt he would be more at home in a velodrome.  
From the top of the moor it was indeed, as promised, "a fairground ride of a descent to Laverton" and, as we continued on through Winksley, our caffeine whiskers were beginning to twitch uncontrollably but a few more hill climbs were required before we reached the oasis that is Fountains Abbey Tea Rooms and the Quite Fast Boys, who had still got there first, had saved us a table and had not eaten all the cake.  
The peloton then came whiffling through the tulgey wood, and bumbled as it came! and we headed briskly for home via Ripley and the Greenway in the intensifying drizzle.  
O frabjous day! Callooh! Callay! This was a great day and the route designer (who I am reliably informed is Colin T), deserves a large gold star as does James for taking on the role of back marker.  
And finally, one of the perils of predictive text is that, if you do not check your ride report very very carefully, you find you have only managed to produce four parrots of otter dribble. So take care. Helen T





### **Medium Plus**

White Rabbits

The route was far better than the weather today and a visit and short climb to the Greygarth Monument was a first for many of our group of 11. It was well worth the inordinate number of short, sharp climbs to get there and there were no grumbles about one of the hilliest Medium Plus routes I have ever done.

The pictures and jolly faces show the general appreciation of Colin's new route and even the group's miserable attempt at sheep-herding was a bright spot in the day.

Many thanks to all for a most enjoyable ride. Keith T.





### **Medium Plus Fast Group**

Having been volunteered by Helen to lead the "fast" cohort, five riders set off from Hornbeam. Unfortunately the leader did not appreciate the fact that there were a total of seven riders in the cohort until we reached Ripley. We made good progress to Risplith where The Committee decided to forego the refreshment stop and carry on to Grantley. After negotiating the twists and turns in Grantley we were on our way to Dallow Gill. The front of the group was so eager to get to Dallow Gill they took the earliest but wrong left turn. However, we all made it to the Greygarth monument and successfully managed the helter-skelter ride down to Kirkby Malzeard. The Committee now decided to take the direct route to Ripon, and head for Oliver's Pantry. The plans of mice and men oft... Oliver's was full so we adjourned to Booth's for refreshments. The Committee now agreed to return to Harrogate via the Deer Park, Fountains, Watergate, and Ripley. Peter J

### **Extra Medium Plus Ride**

Thirsk is worth seeing! Three of us decided that with the hugely popular Tour de Yorkshire coming as close as Thirsk it was worth the effort to join the spectators in the square. What a treat despite the rain! The locals have knitted the town - see photos. Lots of street furniture has brightly coloured knitted jumpers with the most exotic themes. I suggest a ride out to see it while it is all still in place. Martin W





### Long Ride

A wrong choice on the weather front, but a memorable day. Cow bells, blue flags, wet and cold all day, great pop up cafe with heated floors, (open 2nd and 4th Saturdays 10 to 2) at S u Whitestone, vintage car rally and young fast fit riders. Plus us and many more like minded riders. Just the one hill. Great crowds and Trefor back to watch the finish on TV live. 68 m. Richard.



### Long Ride

With a welcome back to Barbara, six riders set off for Pocklington. No sooner had we left Hornbeam than light rain started, setting a pattern for the first half of the day. We had definitely chosen the right direction to go in because the strong breeze was never really a problem. Approaching Walton, we were making good time when there was what sounded like a really clattery gear change and four riders fell off the back. It turned out that Andy had broken a rear wheel spoke. With it suitably fastened out of the way, we pushed on in a nice tight group (a bit like sardines) arriving at Pockleton needing refreshment. The return ride was uneventful other than Andy's bike clattering away again as another spoke broke. Thankfully, that was the end of the entertainment. Pushing on through York proved a nostalgia trip for Barbara as we went though the Uni and she

pointed out her old room. We returned to Hornbeam in the gloom as the weather started to go down again but avoided the early evening rain. 87 miles and a good time was had by all. JH

