

Sunday, May 29, 2016

Wheel Easy Ride Report 525

Short Ride

12 riders chose short and slow. 5 new names to learn. 8 miles up to Little Almscliffe. 3 people having places to go and people to see headed home down Penny Pot Lane. 9 people chose to go passed Menwith and into Sophie's cafe in Hampsthwaite. 6 scones with jam eaten. 8 cups of coffee drunk. 1 chocolate with 2 marshmallows, 1 chocolate flake, and a kilo of whipped cream lusted after. 9 jolly cyclists from Garforth having 9 large lunches. 1 lady cyclist with 1 leg. 1.5 hours at least in a cafe. 2 people took the quick way back to Grainbeck Lane. 7 cyclists sauntered home along the Greenway. 25 miles CG



Medium Ride

18 takers for the long-ish medium ride today. Overcast and not particularly warm, but no real prospect of rain, and a north-easterly wind of about 10 mph. Max was present on his shiny red Colnago. We split into 2 groups and went along Leadhall Lane, Burn Bridge and briefly on the A61 and then left on to Walton Head Lane, where the full group re-convened. At Kirkby Overblow Paul B, Nicky and Graham were waiting for us. On to Sicklinghall and Wetherby, even though the published route said Linton and Collingham, as Linton bridge is still closed. Through Wetherby (where Max left us) on the A1 cycle path, and then straight on the road which runs parallel to the A1 on the eastern side. Traffic was a little busier than on a normal Sunday, but it was worth taking the road for its wonderful surface. Left over the A1 and into Bramham, where the leader got a bit lost and Geraldine's i-phone helped out. We eventually found the road to Tadcaster (not one we often use) and followed it towards Tadcaster, but taking a diversion across the A64, presumably to avoid a busy section of road. Through Tadcaster, ignoring all the 'road closed' signs and over the new footbridge just down (up?) stream of the damaged road bridge. Here we picked up an EG who had been abandoned by the other EGs (what rotters, but maybe he was a little late arriving?) A toilet stop was desired, but the public toilets in Tadcaster are useless/closed. Coffee was discussed and Thorp Arch was agreed upon as a suitable spot, as it was big enough to accommodate all of us. Left towards Wighill and then left to Thorp Arch (where Sue Threadgold left us) and coffee.

We returned to Wetherby on the cycle path and under the A1 through the 'canine excreta' tunnel, and thence to Spofforth along the Harland Way and back to Harrogate through Follifoot and the Showground.

Initially, there had been a few grumbles from some members of the group that the leader was wearing inappropriate clothing: he was 'Fat Lad at the Front', not at the back, and that he was cycling a little too quickly. Acutely aware of this criticism, he assumed his correct place at the back of the group. Apologies to those who found the pace a little too quick. About 38 miles. CPS





Medium Plus Ride (Julie)

The slightly faster group of 9 riders headed to Timble via Beckwithshaw and Little Almscliffe , then onwards and upwards before the long descent into Askwith. The route to Beamsley was a first for a few riders and the views from the top were well worth the climb! We decided to go to Cockpit farm for lunch at which point Jeff and Dave decided to carry on. After our break we carried on to Otley, avoiding the town centre, then followed the Wharfe to Pool and Castley , eventually returning to Harrogate via Kirby Overblow and Rudding . Paul managed to keep up on his mountain bike with the fattest tyres I have ever seen!

A challenging but very enjoyable ride. 50 miles, Average speed 14.3 mph ! Julie E.



Medium Plus (Paul)

Julie, Justin and myself led groups on the 'Jill's Hills' route. Fortunately in my case as all the riders were experienced cyclists and knew the route I only had the task of choosing the coffee stop. The route took us to Beckwithshaw, Timble, Askwith, 'Jill's Hills', Ilkley, Otley, Pool, Weeton and Kirkby Overblow

Why is the route called 'Jill's Hills'? The route is named after Jill Fellerman who in the early days of Wheel Easy led a group to Ilkley via Middleton, Langbar and Beamsley. For many of us at the time this was the hardest ride we had ever done.

The Highlights of the today's ride were the views looking down on Ilkley, James's shortcut from Otley through Wharfe Meadows Park over the river to Pool road and hearing stories over coffee of members fairly new to Wheel Easy who have the cycling bug and looking to do longer rides at a slower pace.

The coffee stop at La Stazione near the railway station is worth a visit as the coffee, food and service were excellent. Paul





The Big One

Declan, Steve, Alan and Rob joined Sue and Colin at the 7 o'clock start for "the big one" Leyburn at about 3 hours in was our first stop, in the Posthorn cafe (I think). We didn't get much of a view of Swaledale from Grinton moor until we got under the cloud, but the sun came out as we approached Tan Hill.....and that doesn't happen often!

Sitting in the sunshine at the delightful stop in Thwaite, we all decided it wouldn't spoil our day if we gave Fleet Moss a miss, so instead we went all the way down Wensleydale to Wensley, and retraced our way back home. A shade under 120 miles the way we went, back before 8 o'clock, so a shade under 13 hours. Quite a lot of climbing, and some tired legs! CT





Well, we did it all - or at least John and Glynn did - but more on that later
8:00 departure from Hornbeam as planned but not planned to be into grey, cold headwind from the north. Dave, John, Glynn and I emerged from the Greenway and connected with Phil. We opted for the direct, flatter route to Leyburn (A61/A6108) . A good shout for 'getting there' - but revealed a standard of Sunday driving which amazed all of us - why are some car drivers so anxious/frustrated/rude/dangerous/abusive/intolerant etc. ? Anyway, once we climbed out of Leyburn on t'Moors we left all that behind.

The cafe stop at Copper Kettle in Reeth fuelled us up nicely for the challenges ahead. Phil departed for a solo ramble back to Askrigg (via another big hill), while four of us gradually shed layers as the sunshine and 'rolling' hills in Arkengarthdale took their toll. After Tan Hill (crowded but not tempting) we got the reward of the fine downhills (mostly) to Thwaite for a second food stop in the Kearton Hotel.

No choice now but to head up Buttertubs. Undoubted KOM John soon disappeared from sight and we only reunited at Hawes. Some new tarmac made the descent very enjoyable - apart from temporary traffic lights near the bottom.

John having already reached Hawes and the weather and time being in our favour, we 'decided' to include Fleet Moss. Oh, how hard is that hill for tired legs ? But again, we all made it up and enjoyed the fast descent to Buckden through relatively empty Langstothdale - although we did see a mink !

By now, small hillocks cut into our progress like Category Ones - but gradually we regained power to our legs and at Appletreewick John and Glynn headed off on the official route via SKyreholme and Duck Street 9shorter ,hillier) , while Dave and I proceeded to Bolton Abbey, Ilkley and Pool (longer, flatter and ending in a pub). A great day with good weather (eventually), good company (always) and good sense of achievement (120 miles - just, and enough BIG HILLS). Roll on Clockwise Big One 2017 ! Peter L



