

Sunday, June 19, 2016

Wheel Easy Ride Report 528

Short Ride

Ten of us set sail from Hornbeam on a reasonably bright and sunny day with a view to cycling 20 miles and stopping at the farm shop in Whixley for a coffee and then home via Little Ribston and Follifoot. However, when we reached the top of the hill out of Farnham and had gathered to regain our composure Caroline voiced the concern that we had all been feeling, including the leader, "How de we get to Whixley from here?" Nobody including the ride leader had a clue as the leader's OS map 289 stopped at Farnham.

Denis suggested it was quite some distance from where we were so I took an executive decision to abort original plan and take up the suggestion from Denis to go to Ripley for refreshments via the Mountgarret estate and thence back to Harrogate along the Greenway. Ten of us set off but Caroline and Monica elected to split off and do a longer run. Four more left at Ripley due to lunch and Fathers Day commitments and four of us stayed the course, had coffee in Ripley and arrived back at Hornbeam, tired but happy, having done 26 miles of a slightly divergent route to that which was originally planned! David S



Medium Ride

Gill did a great job of organising the select group who gathered at Hornbeam today. A group of 11 set off on the medium ride. Gordon led at a good pace from the front with Graham shepherding at the back. We took a route familiar to many through Knaresborough, Farnham, Ferrensby, and Lower Dunsforth to Boroughbridge for coffee & sustenance at Tasty Snacks. A treat ensued as it was the first time I had seen Gordon without his helmet!! Refreshed, we set off back via Roecliffe & the bridle way to Copgrove & then to Knaresborough. Great conditions & lots of chat about the success of last week's anniversary tea at Spa Gardens. A speedy 31 miles & good introduction to the ways of Wheeleasy for new member Julie. Nicky H



Medium Plus Ride

There was only a small number of riders at Hornbeam this morning with a lot away on the 100 Mile ride. Five of us chose the Medium Plus ride and without a leader we decided to follow the planned route. While leaving Hornbeam, Jeanie arrived and joined us making us six.

We set off for Burn Bridge, Kirby Overblow, Sicklinghall and Wetherby and it was obvious we would be setting a cracking pace. From Wetherby we headed up towards Walshford and rather than going through Hunsingore as planned turned through Cowthorpe to Cattal and up to Whixley. We debated whether to call at Tancred Farm for coffee but were concerned that it might be full as the other rides were heading the same way.

After Whixley, Jeanie shot into the lead and everyone followed at such a pace that we missed the turning for Thorpe Underwood and almost the turning for Great Ouseburn. Once Jeanie was reigned in, we were back on course through the Dunsforth's and on to Aldburgh. Before reaching Aldburgh we were overtaken by a fast group of cyclists whose jerseys proclaimed them as the 'Thirsk Tootlers' and our faster riders could not resist the challenge to keep up with them into Boroughbridge.

After coffee in Boroughbridge, Jeanie and I decided to return to Harrogate at a more sedate pace and left the others to carry on at their usual faster rate. On through Minskip, Stavely and up to Farnham where we decide to return via Scotton, Brearton and Nidd to Ripley and back to Harrogate along the Greenway.

A good ride. 47 miles at a variety of paces. Andrew H

100 mile 07:30 Group

The weather gods were smiling down on us as 19 riders rolled up the North Yorkshire byways, early Sunday morning, looking forward to a day of achievement, and a good breakfast.

Briefly crossing paths with our faster, chasing group as we departed Thirsk, we meandered our way to the Lakeside lunch venue. The Wheel Easy advance party were just leaving as we settled down to a long wait for lunch. The place was heaving, due, I guess, to it being Fathers' Day. The general consensus was, however, that the grub was pretty good.

The chasing group, now complete with Eric, rolled in as we were leaving, as we realized that we had had a tailwind all morning. It seems to be one of the rules of cycling.

Little advance groups kept breaking away from yours truly, only to have it confirmed that this tactic does not pay if you don't know the way, and nearly always results in an off-piste experience. Even I was struggling at times, and I had devised the route, (along with Dave Watson, my mate). You were missed Dave.

Tired legs rolled up in Roecliffe to the now-customary fare, chez moi, courtesy Mrs moi. Everything got eaten in true cycling tradition. And of course, it wouldn't seem right if we weren't caught in a decent downpour on our last leg back to Hornbeam.

Everyone got round in good shape, some remarking that this was a "personal best". A massively enjoyable day out for, I think, 36 riders in total.

As you are all aware, this year's innovation was a whip round, in aid of Mencap; this is the charity I am supporting this year by running the Royal Parks Half Marathon, in October.

This morning I have tallied up the takings.

There is a humungous £278.26 in the envelope. This is a sum wildly beyond any expectations I might have hoped for, by a factor of three or four. So a huge thank you for the more than generous support for this worthwhile charity. This amazing generosity will be ringing round in my mind as I struggle round the 13 miles. What a good do and a great club; thanks to everyone. Dave S.





100Mile 08:30 Fast Group



100 Mile 08:30 Steady Pace Report

Sixteen riders turned up to start the 100 mile ride at the later time of 08:30. It was quickly established that we needed to split into two groups, so at Low Bridge 11 riders formed up a quicker group, while the remaining five continued at a steadier pace. As we approached Thirsk we recognised Richard L in the distance who eventually joined the group. The six of us arrived at Thirsk for a tea stop just as the other group was departing. We now set off towards Ainderby Steeple and we were quickly approaching unknown territory.

When we were on our way from Ainderby Steeple towards Little Langton Eric W caught us up and now we were seven. After some skilful navigation we arrived at Lakeside cafe, Ellerton, where we meet most of the other Wheel Easy riders doing the 100 mile ride. But again they all departed while we were still eating our way through some huge sandwiches etc. We now head off towards Catterick and started going south and back to familiar territory.

Approaching Burrill we caught up with Dave S's cohort and overtook them at which point Nick joined us and now we are eight. Encouraged by the thought of cake it was full steam ahead for Roecliffe. After drinking

lashings of tea and consuming cakes and other excellent goodies it was back on the bikes and off to Harrogate. Unfortunately the weather gods were not our side and the rain set in but buoyed up with tea and cake we were not that concerned, especially as the magic 100 mile finishing post was clearly in sight. Thanks to Jan for laying on such a wonderful spread and Dave for organising the ride. PCJ

