

Sunday, July 3, 2016

Wheel Easy Ride Report 530

Short Ride

Seven riders set off from Hornbeam Park under the care of Dennis, who assured us that it would be at a slow pace. Dennis however shares the same understanding of 'slow' as Mark Cavendish, and the wheels were smoking by the time we arrived at Knaresborough, having left Harrogate in typical Dennis fashion, by not having a clue which route we were being taken on. After another half hour of mystery touring we popped out at Scriven, then meandered to Lingerfield and Nidd via Scotton. The Castle Tearoom at Ripley was a fuelling stop that could not be avoided by all except Dennis who had to go home for lunch, and left the talking, eating, and cycling members to discuss the many and varied types of tea and coffee, and the calorific value of clotted cream. The ride back to Harrogate along the Greenway was an unadulterated pleasure caused by a significant tail wind. A great ride, brilliantly guided. John N.



Medium Ride Group 1

First Medium group set out from Hornbeam Car Park with seven riders taking the direct route through Calcutt to Low Bridge, Knaresborough, where we picked up two extra riders. Then headed for Boroughbridge Road and left to Farnham, regrouping on the Staveley road. Taking the left in Occaney through to Copgrove and right straight on to the estate bridal path and right through Roecliffe to Boroughbridge, then over the bridge for an early coffee stop at the farm shop, where two riders departed and we were soon joined by the 2nd Medium group in the cafe. On resuming the ride, we continued on through Skelton into Ripon, turning left over the canal into Littlethorpe and on to Bishop Monkton. A group decision was then taken to return via Burton Leonard, the Mountgarret Estate and Nidd to join the Greenway by Nidd Bridge. General dispersal of riders in Harrogate. A dry ride with occasional short sunny spells... 35miles, home by 2pm. Peter B

Medium Ride Group 2

Dull and overcast at Hornbeam, with a strongish westerly wind forecast. Initially 13 of us in total, including Caroline, who was going to "tag along but do her own thing". 5 went with Peter B, including new recruit Sue/Susan, and 6 came with Geraldine and me. We agreed to meet for coffee at Lister Farm (?) just north of Boroughbridge at Skelton-on-Ure. Through the woods and the showground (preparations for the Yorkshire Show) and along Forest Moor Road to Low Bridge. Usual route along Abbey Road to Farnham, Occaney (where Caroline left us) and Copgrove, where we took the bridle path to Roecliffe. The surface was OK, not too gravelly or muddy. As we entered Boroughbridge we noticed a group of cyclists looking at bits of paper and looking lost. We stopped to assist, and pointed them in the direction of Helperby. Paul B led us through Boroughbridge to the café, where Peter B and his crew were already established. Discussions during refreshments initially delicately dodged around the referendum result, but eventually a no-holds-barred discussion ensued, and everyone felt better. Charlie was very measured about a possible Scottish exit from the UK. Paul B decided we should discuss religion, too, but that was a bridge too far. Sandwiches and scones (the pronunciation of which, it was agreed, depended on where you come from; there is no right or wrong pronunciation) were good. Into the wind towards Ripon till we hit the B6265, where we turned left and met quite a lot of traffic, possibly connected with

the race meeting the next day. At the newly-painted bridge over the canal we turned left and had our photos taken. Discussions took place over names, and Julie refused to tell Paul hers... We considered that this was probably going to be the slowest Medium Ride on record. Through Littlethorpe and Bishop Monkton, when Paul B suggested a deviation from the official route. Instead of going via Copgrove , Lingerfield and Knaresborough (again), he suggested the Mountgarret Estate and Nidd and the Greenway as a more interesting route back. A quick referendum was held and the suggestion was unanimously accepted. Lots of cyclists around near Ripley, as there was a charity ride for Parkinsons, then lots of cyclists, pedestrians and dogs along the Greenway. The weather had cheered up by the time we got home. About 36 miles. CPS.





Medium Plus Ride

Keith and Helen's popular ride to the southern reaches of Leeds drew a large crowd and as a solution to café shock (copyright belongs to Dave Preston) five of us agreed to peel off and exited to Street Lane. This was our reward for the climb up Weardley Bank pursued by several horse boxes, via Eccup where we encouraged the annual fun run (apologies to the runners if it was more serious than that) and for negotiating the muddy path that once was Manor Lane.

After coffee we introduced Steve to the delights of South Leeds, Halton Moor, great views of the new waste plant and Emsley Moor and through the cycle route from Roundhay to Temple Newsom.

With various bits of advice, and consulting our map and catching sight of the other groups we found our way through Colton and on to Barwick and Aberford. A second coffee stop seemed a good idea although James missed out on this as he had an appointment in the Valley Gardens helping with The Big Picnic. Hope they gave him some cake!

We joined some of Keith and Helen's group in Wetherby for a very convivial café stop at The Gourmet in The Shambles sitting out in the sunshine.

Home via Little Ribston about 52 miles with much of it in the afternoon in lovely sunshine.

Paul left us at Ridding Lane, Steve, Dave and Gia stopped at the fine stone circle seat at Crimple and sat and admired the view while mourning the loss of the golf club.

Thanks to all for an interesting day's ride. Gia





Medium Plus Ride Faster Lads

We met out with 10 then gained one along the way, only to lose two who decided to drop back to join the touring-pace group. The ride to Roundhay Park was uneventful except for Dave whose chain jammed on the steepest section of Weardley Bank, causing him to fall in a heap in the road, fortunately without too much damage to rider or bike.

From Roundhay to Temple Newsam was 'interesting' as we followed the blue signs, leading us along tracks more suited to mountain bikes. The consensus at lunch was that this was not a route anyone would want to ride again.

Although the route from Temple Newsam over the A1 also involved some off-road riding, it was declared acceptable as the surface was relatively good. Back on tar we cranked up the speed as we headed back north.

At Wetherby we chose separate routes back to Harrogate with only two using the designated Wetherby to Spofforth cycle path, the rest declaring that they had had enough off-road for one day.

Ian.



More Medium Plus

The general consensus on this ride was that it was "interesting". Interesting, that is, if you enjoy a route through the council estates and villages of East Leeds. Nevertheless, we did pass through some amazing open green spaces on quiet traffic free trails, so it was worth the effort - just the once!

Back at the beginning, we unleashed the faster boys, then Keith and I took a group each, keeping a short distance between ourselves to minimise road rage, yet be almost one peloton. After Kirkby Overblow we all enjoyed the challenge of Weardley Bank and the pleasant route over Eccup Reservoir where a run was in progress. This was The Eccup 10 and we waved encouragingly at them, particularly those who appeared to be in various stages of despair. We probably looked the same to them! The next destination was Roundhay Park via Wigton Lane, past an eclectic mix of quite grand houses. By eclectic, think "Footballers' Wives" and you get the picture. Then the Wykebeck Trail began which was largely surprisingly verdant for a very urban trail. On passing a caravan encampment on the Fearnville Estate, we marvelled at the quad bike skills of the four year olds who were charging about with their much younger siblings crammed on the back. Killingbeck Fields, the Asda and Primrose Valley Park followed and finally we entered the pleasant grounds of Temple Newsam, landscaped in the mid 1700s by Capability Brown. Both groups converged on the excellent cafe and had a very convivial lunch in the large courtyard full of large wooden tables and, crucially, sunshine. Thereafter, we continued as one group on our return journey through Colton, Barwick and Aberford before picking up the cycle tracks home through the familiar terrain of Bramham, Wetherby, Spofforth and Follifoot. Sunshine and temperatures increased on the final leg of our journey on this unfamiliar route that was a "first" for the majority. Great company as always and, as ever, some astounding back marking from Justin. Not knowing the route was no impediment to his enthusiasm and genius. 51 miles. Helen & Keith T





Long Ride

Bit of a strange long ride for me today. When I woke yesterday I found I had a cold - when I woke today it was worse, so I decided to only do part of the ride in the interest of not being too washed out for the rest of the week. Then Mr Garmin decided not to work, and there was a misunderstanding about the route out of Harrogate so 2 riders went missing plus Glyn who went after them. By Penny Pot Lane, we were all together, Mr Garmin was sorted out, and Richard P joined us, to make 9 riders. So, down through Hampsthwaite, and on to Burnt Yates. The blustery wind then made it hard work both going up to Brimham Rocks and also downhill through the bends to Wilsill. It was then suggested a cafe stop at Tea Cups was needed. Barbara decided to carry on, while the rest of us enjoyed toasted tea cakes. At that point, I left the ride for an uneventful flat ride back to Hornbeam, but not forgetting to contact Dan who intended to meet us at Masham. The last I heard was that Dan had reached Masham, so I hope contact was made. This afternoon, I was pretty tired so my decision not to do the whole ride was sound. Better luck on my next Wheel Easy ride! JH

Addendum

- Now leaderless it was a wind-assisted ride up to and over Lofthouse and onward to Masham. Richard P left us to go to the Pals memorial site.
 - Masham was full, so on to Ripon Spa Gardens for refreshments. Topics of discuss included footballer's tattoos, football, tennis, Brexit, Tour De France et al.
 - Next it was Boroughbridge, Dunsforths, Thorpe Underwood, Cattal, and Cowthorpe all taken at a pace with the wind mainly behind us.
 - Leaving Cowthorpe it was now a case of head down and brave the headwinds all the way to Knaresborough.
- Ride approximately 80 miles. Peter J





Pals Commemorative Ride 2016



