

Sunday, July 17, 2016

Wheel Easy Ride Report 532

Short Ride

Sunday welcomed two new riders to the Wheel Easy short ride group. Jane from Leeds and John from Harrogate, both wishing to get more into cycling and get fitter, and with fine looking bikes between them! The group split into two, with the bulk of the regular riders heading off to Beckwithshaw, Hampsthwaite via Menwith Hill and Clapham Green, and home via the Greenway.

Our small group of 4 set off to go for a gentle pootle round Knaresborough but the wind blew the wrong way and we ended up in Follifoot, Spofforth then Wetherby, via the Harland Way! Sue T decided to forego coffee and cake in Wetherby with us, to head back earlier on her own.

Once refreshed, the three of us headed back to Spofforth via Little Ribston. Sadly, hills never escape us in Harrogate, and the killer hill from Pannal village up to Leadhall Lane, (Church Lane?), almost finished us off! Well done to the two J's! A very respectable 22 miles on your first club outing. Fantastic! Here's hoping you will both be back for more! You will be most welcome! SEM.

Medium Ride

Summer has arrived and Wheel Easy were out to celebrate. Martin kindly offered to help split the groups with Alison and Gia taking two groups. We all met in Ripley for a photo at the TdF sculpture before we really did split up along the route through the woods and to Clint. Liz had confirmed that we could get to Hartwith Toll Bridge without any road closures and as this was a first for some in our group was a treat. The ride up Stripe Lane was glorious but for the angry lady driving towards us far too fast. The ride along the ridge at Brimham is stunning and we all enjoyed the run along Sawley Moor Lane where we agreed that sitting outside by the lake at Fountains was a good call. It was busy but there was plenty of room and a great setting to have our cafe stop overlooking the lake. The sandwiches were excellent but the chocolate cake failed the test, deemed too dry! We enjoyed the cycle back along to the Drovers, coped with the recently gravelled road and back to the safety and comfort of the greenway which as always was thronging with families and good to meet Malcolm happily wielding his secateurs along the route.

Great ride warm and lovely company. Gia





Another Medium Ride

On a potentially beautiful day, there were many takers for the medium ride towards Brimham and Fountains. At Gia's suggestion we all made our way to Ripley independently with a view to organising ourselves there. Gia set off with a speedy looking group, then Martin W, always ready to volunteer as a leader took another group. 10 of us were happy to amble along at a sedate pace. We picked up 2 from one of the other groups at Clint Bank. In smaller groups we made our way to Hartwith to wait for everyone to catch up. We lighted on Martin sorting out a puncture for one of his group before we set off up Strike Lane. It was well worth the climb as the views were stunning. Colin and Paul eyed up some potential tracks while we waited for all to collect up. Then on to Brimham where 8 of the group decided to head back to Harrogate via Rabbit Farm. Thanks to Joe at this point for being an assiduous back marker.

The remaining 4 sped on to G&Ts. Colin decided to visit Greygarth Monument, so just 3 of us made our way back to Harrogate, enjoying the sunshine and the lovely country side. It was good to meet up with Malcolm at

Ripley who was just setting off to Fountains. Bridget cycled up too and accompanied us home. A beautiful day for a lovely ride. Alison N



Medium Plus Ride



Medium Plus Faster Ride

After the faster group departed there was about 12 of us left in the slower group.

After topping up our sun cream in Knaresborough, James decided to lead half the group while Alan and myself led the other half.

It was a nice flat ride with some lovely scenery helped by the sun beaming down.

Our group set out at a relatively fast pace and arrived in Easingwold with the faster guys still eating lunch outside the restaurant.

All the seats outside were taken so we sat inside an otherwise empty café.

We refuelled with coffee, milkshakes, tea cakes, cakes and beans on toast.

Bobby decided to join the faster group for the journey home and 2 people decided to join the slower group.

Was it something I said? lol. This reduced our group to just 4.

Alan upped the pace on the way home while riding up front and trying to protect the rest of us from the vicious head winds.

Great day out, perfect weather and even better company. Declan

Long Ride

Six riders for the slightly earlier start to the long ride and six opinions on how we should get to Settle. In the end the planned route was followed with the addition of an extra tea stop at Burnsall car park. Peter J left us at Hetton and then a few miles further on we met Jill coming in the opposite direction doing the Way of the Roses with some friends.

Lunch was taken at the excellent farm shop in Airton with a lovely view of Malham Cove. We then ploughed on against the wind towards Settle. Richard P left us at a crossroads in the middle of nowhere planning a slightly shorter, but harder, return route via Kirby Malham and Arncliffe. John got a puncture in his front tyre on the steep descent to Settle but luckily there were no disastrous consequences.

From Stainforth onwards the route was fantastic – superb scenery, quiet roads and the wind on our backs.

Cycling perfection.

We reached Grassington and Cobblestones café just after 16:00 for our third café stop. At the same time Richard, who was a little bit ahead of us, was taking tea at Stump Cross caverns. The wind kindly blew us back to Harrogate for 18:45, a bit later than planned. Peter L decided to take a detour via Little Almscliffe on the way home as 95 miles is not enough! Sadly he missed the pleasure of a high speed tow down Penny Pot Lane behind Richard L. Phil

