

Sunday, September 25, 2016

Wheel Easy Ride Report 542

Short Ride

Maggie, Ruth, Sue and myself set off for a ride along the Lanes around Kirkby Overblow. We cycled along Leadhall Lane, Burnbridge Lane, Walton Head Lane, Swindon Lane, Spring Lane, Wharfe Lane, Gill Lane, Kirkby Lane and Drury Lane. The group hadn't cycled the route before and they enjoyed the views, the quiet lanes and the few hills. After fifteen miles we headed for coffee to Crimple Hall. Once again an enjoyable morning in good company. Paul T



Slow Medium Ride

Four takers for the 'slow' ride after Sir John decided it would be like riding with the cast of Loose Women and opted for the faster less chatty group.

We arrived at G n Ts in Risplith to find we were less than a minute behind the faster group! After filling up on delicious cakes and coffees, we decided to set off back by the most direct route leaving out extra hills.

A lovely ride with jovial company. Thanks to Sue A, Marion and Elizabeth. Twenty eight scenic miles with a few good hills on route. Bridget M



Medium Ride

Ten takers for the hilly-ish ride to Risplith, with Bridget taking a different slower group. Discussions took place about whether the road from Hollybank Wood towards Clint would be open or not, but we felt confident we could work our way around a closed road if necessary.

Through town and along the ASDA cycle path (no broken glass), Dragon Bridge and then the Greenway to Ripley. Pateley Bridge Road and then right up Scarah Bank past 'The Drovers' to Watergate Lane. Tall John did a good job of keeping the front of the group in check, and Geraldine was doing unusually well as back marker. There was a very good apple crop in the garden of the house at the junction with Watergate. Along towards Fountains, past the chapel and the gypsies, but then we turned left uphill before reaching Fountains, along Hebden Bank towards Sawley. When we reached the small Green Bank Lane/Low Gate Lane, we debated whether to take it instead of going straight on, as it is a pleasant route, but the surface was historically quite poor. We gave it a go, and, joy of joys, they have resurfaced it beautifully.

Group photo at the junction to Middy-car Bank and then briefly on to G&T's red spotty café in Risplith, where Bridget arrived very shortly after we did and Tall John left us. There was a competition to see if anyone could get a smile out the two women serving (reputedly quite a challenge...) but one of them did crack under one particular charm offensive. General discussions over coffee, but no politics or linguistics (come back Paul Blackham). The first stretch after coffee was the long haul uphill and into the stiff-ish breeze along the B6265. Andrew detected rain just to the West, which eventually caught up with us at Brimham Rocks, but it was light and short-lived. Down Stripe Lane to the Pateley Bridge Road and then left and quick right to Hartwith Mill toll bridge, whilst avoiding an idiot in a Ferrari coming the other way. Birstwith and over the bridge, up Clint Bank and right to Clint Bank Lane, wondering if the re-surfacing of the section to Hollybank Wood was finished/passable. The sign said 'road closed', but our intrepid group ignored this and were rewarded with a wonderful surface all the way down to the gate at the entrance to the woods. Back along the Greenway. About 32 miles. Joe S



Medium-Plus Ride

Given that there were other rides available today, the numbers of Medium Plus riders at Hornbeam station were low in comparison with usual weeks. Six of us set off at brisk pace led by Bob who was on a Cannondale tandem he shared with Tracy. This was their first ride on this bike for several months having dusted the cobwebs off it this morning. It was a good thing they hadn't been training on this bike as we were led at fast pace (for me at least) through Burnbridge, up Walton Lane, through Kirkby Overblow and on towards Wetherby where we stopped briefly on the Shambles to use the conveniences.

Then onwards along Walton Lane into Thorp Arch where with some astonishment we watched a driver in a Golf barge his way across the Wharfe bridge forcing oncoming cars to reverse! Through Boston Spa to Clifford, then up Windmill Lane into Bramham, on to Aberford and shortly afterwards the welcome site of Lotherton Hall awaited us. We arrived at our coffee stop at 11:05 having averaged 14.9 mph, although we had been assisted by a tail wind which was coming from the west and it wasn't too hot at 12C.

Replenished with caffeine and carbohydrates, we cycled to Sherburn in Elmet and east towards Cawood. Bob and Tracy left us to ride on to Stamford Bridge to meet up with their friends as we turned north towards Church Fenton and Ulleskelf. Eric pointed out that the airport at Church Fenton was being turned into a commercial concern and I was surprised to see it was calling itself "The East Leeds Airport".

On the way back via Grimston Park and Tadcaster where we watched the bridge being reconstructed following last winter's flood damage, those left - Janet, Katharine, Eric and I, continued to set a fast pace. We zoomed past a large group of 'Yorshire Lasses' on the incline to Wighill. At Wetherby we decided not to return via the published route as we all had clean bikes with narrow tyres which didn't suit the shale surface of Harland Way. Instead we rode back via Kirk Deighton, North Deighton, Spofforth and Follifoot. An average of 14.3 mph on the return journey, often into strong head winds. 54 miles in total. As a group we all kept together very well on what was a most enjoyable day! Tim R



Long Ride

After a wet and windy night there were only five takers for the long and medium plus rides, both tackling the same route. So the five set off together and slogged westward into a fresh and cool headwind. The forecast of dry from 8am looked accurate until we were approaching Langbar when a squall blew in, sending us huddling under a large tree. Onwards to Bolton Abbey tea rooms, where we acquired a new recruit in Peter Roberts and were berated by a customer for talking too loudly!

Resuming westward to Embsay and Eastby, we were looking forward to turning for home with a tail wind, but it was disappointingly feeble for the climb over Barden Moor. Tired legs carried us on to Stump Cross, where Michael, Paul and Peter decided not to stop, while Richard, Glyn and I were glad of an excuse for a rest and joined Sarah's group inside just as it started raining again. The Jalapeno crisps were an interesting experiment, but not recommended.

Buffeted by a cross wind down Duck Street, we had another excuse for a rest as we stopped to find Helen having had a broken gear cable. The left turns to Menwith Hill and onto Penny Pot Lane brought very helpful wind assistance, leaving just the grind up Harlow Moor Road to get home.

58 miles, quite short for a long ride, but quite far enough on what felt like a tough day.
Richard L



Medium-Plus Touring Day

Seven Sinners opted for the early start at Pennypot. A glimmer of sun as we went up Timble Hill set the tone for the day. At Askwith Bank we were back on the advertised route and made our way up Langbar, with just a niggle from Helen's gears. Martin opted for the knee friendly version and stuck to the low ground but met us at Abbey Tea Rooms for 1st lunch.

The journey through Hesketh Farm, Halton, Embsay and Eastby was stunning and definitely not knee friendly but gave Keith the opportunity to hit top speed of 51 mph (!) on the well deserved downward swoop. From Appletreewick a kind wind carried us to Stump Cross, where we met the proper Long Ride Team. Alas Helen's gear cable completely bit the dust, leaving her no crawling gears. In true 'woman of the match' style she powered home leaving all behind, wishing we too, had a broken cable.

Kind weather, great company, 55 miles and 5,000ft climbing. Sarah C



Bridlington Ride

What a great ride this was:

The overnight rain stopped as we set off at 8:00 - perfect timing!

We had a tailwind or sidewind all the way, which greatly bumped up the average speed to 15mph.

Two riders expressed concerns about the distance and pace. Both did really well, although we did start a little quickly, apologies to them.....

The first cafe at Pocklington had an excellent selection (except for baked beans on toast) and was well-appreciated by all. It was full of cyclists; a nice sight.

We had a nice climb up through Millington, and the long gradual descent through the beautiful Wolds was wind-assisted at an easy 20mph and went on for miles.

At Burton Agnes we refuelled for a second time. Two riders then left the main group to make it a 100-mile day. I decided that we would be early at Brid so added on a local loop of about 6 miles, making the overall day some 88 miles.

Brid was fish & chips overlooking the harbour; well-appreciated at the end of a long ride.

The bike bus was unfortunately delayed by traffic, both ways, so we were a bit late getting back to Hornbeam.

But, after such a great day, it didn't really matter! John H.

