

Sunday, October 30, 2016

Wheel Easy Ride Report 547

Short Ride

6 riders opted for the short ride today. The Honey Farm cafe stop was a big attraction.

The ride was via St George's, Squinting Cat, Beckwithshaw, Stainburn Forest to Braythorne . Following scones, cakes, teas and coffees we rode back to the Otley road and back to Beckwithshaw where we split into 2 groups. Myself and Corrine opted to ride on to Penny Pot, Ethelburgas and Killinghall Moor Country Park to Bilton. The remains g four Peter Lynda, Bridget and Sue O opted to head back to Hornbeam via Otley Road. It was a lovely ride even though we saw no sun. A distance of about 25 miles.

Jean



Long Ride Report

Peter J volunteered (!) to lead the Long Ride. The Long Ride set off with nine riders bound for Ampleforth. With excellent weather conditions, dry, relatively warm and no wind a fairly brisk pace was achieved. At Coxwold it was obvious that we were going to arrive too early at Ampleforth so it was decided to take a small diversion via Colley Broach Road. At this point John H thought that Peter J had a problem and went back to look for him, but Peter J was actually in front of him. Never mind it all sorted itself out. At the Ampleforth tea rooms there appeared to be a log jam regarding the provision of "toasties" such that Peter R had to change his order to get something to eat. Dave S by this time had left us as he had a more pressing engagement. We left Ampleforth College using the road that passes through its grounds and eventually joined the main road at Gilling East. On our way to Easingwold we passed several other cyclists enjoying the autumn weather. After Easingwold it was full steam ahead to Harrogate with John H and Richard P leaving us at Great Ouseburn. Peter J





Slow Medium Ride

Oh so nice to be back from southern domestic servitude. Eleven lovely people decided they needed a slow medium ride today....despite not being announced we managed to gather and set off and hopefully did not disturb Paul R's medium ride organising too much...sorry Paul. Everyone who was anyone seemed to be heading to Little Almscliff. Eventually everyone overtook us and we more or less followed the prescribed route missing out things that looked like big hills and ended up in Sophie's cafe Hampsthwaite which was very crowded and seemed short of staff. With an hour's wait we were all more or less served and after a one and a half hour out stop, finally continued our three different routes home, having learnt about cake decorating; What flapjack should be; who already knew whom; and just what the perfect halloween outfit should be like. Thank you Neil for the lovely back marking, Dennis for route knowledge, Jen for guiding half the group up Clint Bank, and everyone for their jolly company and extreme patience of inept leadership. 25 miles 12,985 steps and 74 floors in extremely pleasant autumnal weather.

Caroline G



Medium Ride

Very mild, very still, great up and down route over the reservoirs and up to Timble. Not sure how many we were in the end (14?), as we lost one or two, or should I say they left(Max doesn't get lost) and gained two or three including Paul B who found himself leading at one point. From Timble it was over the A 59 and up Hardisty,

wide panoramas of autumn colours drifting through the haze, past the Golf Balls. Then it was the Staupes wiggle down to Clapham Green and on to Sophies. Very busy but efficient friendly service as usual and nice coffee and company. Most of the remainder of us took the woods back to Ripley and unfortunately a straying pedestrian caused new Paul to come off his bike, bit bruised on his shoulder and hip and some cable repair to his derailleurs but he was up and going again for the greenway back to Harrogate. Thanks to Justin and Dave P for back marking and everyone else for a splendid morning's ride. PaulR

Medium Plus Faster Pace

Twelve riders set off with the less leisurely group on a good cycling morning. The pace was brisk from the start and I soon realised that I would need to adopt a "lead from the back" approach. Leaving out the Thorpe Arch maze, we sped on to Wighill where one rider decided to pull out. I watched enviously as he pedalled off. After Tadcaster, I was obliged to slow things down a bit and take the lead as we negotiated the unfamiliar route through Appleton Roebuck, the airfield and Acaster Malbis. On the York Selby cycle path we cleverly used the Sun's gravity to catapult us towards York and Cycle Heaven. Their fare was promptly served with a smile and most acceptable and all the more so with a Wheel Easy discount! After a brief gawp at the up-market offerings in the showroom, we climbed back onto our own more modest mounts and headed homewards. The long straight stretches after Askham Richard were ideal for more high speed action and by the time we reached the foothills of Harrogate, the ride leader was reduced to the role of distant sweeper, although the peloton were kind enough to wait and watch me suffer at the top of the Showground hill.

David Webber

Medium Plus

After the faster boys had departed, Gia kindly offered to take a group of 8, and 10 riders joined me. On regrouping in Kirkby Overblow we realised that it was taking rather a long time for Joe, our back marker to arrive with Tim and Mike. Eventually they appeared, having gallantly come to the rescue of a couple of ladies en route who had a puncture. We cracked on to the delightful Doyly Tea Rooms at Bolton Percy – new for some, and enjoyed refreshments inside the cosy surroundings. After our stop we were down to 8 riders, having lost Tim, John and Angela who opted for a faster route back to Harrogate. Andrew then stepped into lead position to take us to the York- Selby cycle path, which happily left me free to do some chatting. After what is fast becoming a routine and welcome convenience stop at the Park and Ride at the end of that path, it was homewards via Long Marston and Tockwith. We bid farewell to Helen and Keith at Cowthorpe as they cycled off to Wetherby. Joe, Geraldine and myself lost sight of Liz and Andrew at this stage but we reconvened when everyone had happily managed the Showground Hill. A very pleasant ride in calm, mild conditions.

54 miles. Monica

Another Medium Plus Ride

Hornbeam was thronging with riders today all keen to make the most of the balmy autumn days. Whilst the sun did not come out we enjoyed a breeze free ride along the flat lands of Wetherby and York. This was a great route which we have done many times before but not in this direction which makes it very refreshing. The cafe at Bolton Percy did a wonderful job to feed us all with excellent food and they even ejected some guests so that we could have a room to ourselves.

We cycled along a fair share of traffic free paths during the ride including the show ground which our group used to reduce the numbers going out via Kirkby Overblow.

We squeaked home in decent light for probably one of the last 50+ mile rides of the year. Malcolm joined us on his new electric steed and was home with over 30 miles spare.

Thank you to all who helped with my vague directions and for such an enjoyable autumn ride. Gia. 54 miles





Off Road Ride

Five of us to-day, met outside Stokesley, road to Ingleby Greenhow then up the Railway Incline and followed the Ironstone Railway to the top of Rosedale Chimney Bank, only stopping for a coffee in the pub. Peter said he knew a good track from Chimney Bank to Lastingham.....and we all know it now! Sat with our sandwiches (putting the world to rights) outside Lastingham in the closest we got to sunshine all day.

Road to Hutton-le-hole, then another little track bypassing Gillamoor, then a bit of road to take the track over Rudland Rigg back to the Incline top.....back to the cars about 4.30.

Apparently 46 miles or so, largely off-road, only 2 things could have made the day betterhaving clearer weather for some views, and not having 2 punctures! ColinT.

