

Sunday, January 1, 2017

Wheel Easy Ride Report 555

Medium Plus Ride

New Year's Day. 2017. John our chair welcomed us with our new membership cards/ID and as the rain started to fall we worked out what to do. Cafes open were a deciding, warming and essential factor. The planned route to Boroughbridge was amended as we felt that Ripon would provide us with what we needed more quickly so eleven of us plied the usual route via Bishop Monkton. As we cycled out of Knaresborough the weather improved and despite some deepish puddles we arrived in Ripon and Caffè Nero efficiently provided us with much needed coffee. Jill had checked out Olivers Pantry where she says they have opened up the first floor which would accommodate more of us, but they were closed today. We then followed the Wheel Easy favourite route back via the deer park and home via the Greenway. 34 miles, the sun came out on the return journey and we were all, Charlie, Jeanie, Paul, Jill, Geoff, Debby, John, Alison, Colin, Andrew glad to be out on the first day of the new year. Gia



Medium Plus Ride 2

I wasn't counting, but there seemed to be far fewer riders at Hornbeam Park than normal. There were no takers for the long ride and six of us set off on the Medium Plus, proceeding to Boroughbridge via Bishop Monkton, avoiding the bridal path and battling into a headwind accompanied by lashing rain. Weather that could be described as character-building and which had most of us thinking that we should have stayed in bed. After an obligatory stop at the Boroughbridge public facilities which were found to be closed, Andy pointed out that we were close to half-way around and, with most places shut on New Year's Day, we headed back to Morrisons for refreshments and the use of their facilities. Then it was onwards towards Dishforth. By now the rain had abated but the headwind was as relentless as ever. This eased when we turned towards Ripon then blew us back from Ripon to Harrogate for a de-brief at the Knox where conversation drifted towards what we would be riding in 2017. According to Mr Garmin, I rode 72.8km.

Ian N



Medium Ride

A poor weather forecast led to a low turn-out so just three riders set out via Leadhall Lane to Burn Bridge and the challenging Brackenthwaite Lane with spells of light rain which was not as bad as expected. The next challenge was Norwood Lane up to Little Almscliffe where the moderate cross-wind was not a problem and there were early signs of blue sky on the horizon. Down past the Sun Inn and up to Pennypot Lane a group decision was taken on a more direct route down thro' Kettlesing and Tang, up to Clapham Green and down again for refreshments at Sophies café. As a final challenge, we took on Clint Bank and returned to Harrogate via Ripley and the Greenway. Back home by 1.15 after 26miles and the sun came out! Thanks to Nicky and Michael for good company Jean B.

