

Sunday, January 8, 2017

Wheel Easy Ride Report 556

Medium Ride

Kirkby Overblow, Wetherby, Bramham, Thorp Arch, Wetherby again, Spofforth. Well, I couldn't have organised it better myself. Today is the 6th anniversary of my first Wheel Easy outing. It was an icy, inauspicious, start - see Ride Report 246 - though I still recall Malcolm's welcome, and coming off on a patch of black ice on my way back home. Total distance: 1 mile. As if to mark the anniversary we had 3 new riders, Aaron, Amanda and Miranda. And, WE royalty - Dave P. and Joe - as back markers. The weather was better - dull, but improving, with patches of blue sky later on. In keeping with a long-standing tradition, we started as 11, swelled to 13 with Martin W and Paul B joining, shrank back to 11, then 7 from Boston Spa, and 8 from Wetherby after coffee (don't ask). 32 miles and - according to Google Maps - a slightly surprising 1300 feet/400 metres of 'climbing'. A great start to the year, thanks to all. Justin K.



Short Ride

A great turnout at Hornbeam. Nine noble souls were willing to accompany me on a very sedate (more a reflection of my post Christmas ability) ride to Little Almscliffe, Pennypot Lane, Hampsthwaite, Killinghall and by various routes, home. Welcome to Jane, Laura and Nicola. Max and Caroline, who are both recovering from a very nasty and prolonged bug left us at Beckwithshaw. At the entry to Stainburn Forest carpark, we reflected on what we might have seen had it been a clear day. Jane and Nicola had not covered this area before, which is always good to know. It was certainly rather cold so Nicola had to be reassured that coffee was not just a figment of my imagination. Am not sure what would have ensued had the promised Farm Shop been closed - mutiny! Anyway, all was well! We now numbered five as Dennis, Jo and Laura had carried straight home. However, as we swept into the yard, we were met by Caroline who had determinedly kept going and had, in fact, been there for some time having bagged a large table. Thankfully, given the excesses of Christmas, the renowned cake maker had not delivered but scones and toasted teacakes were fallen upon. We then crossed the A59 with comparative ease and sailed down Weston Lane and up Hollins Hill to Killinghall. Again, a smooth crossing of Ripon Road. Eventually, only Dave and

I were left and we came via the cycle way to join the Greenway and on via Claro Road. We encountered a party of "Returning to the Community" workers who were sweeping the cycle path near Woodfield Road – a pleasure to see.

Thank you for excellent company everyone; magnificent backmarking, Dave who also tolerated the "chatter" of females! Sue D



Medium Plus Ride 1

The start of the medium plus ride was chaos this morning with many takers.

I was still wondering which sub section I fancied when I was unceremoniously told to get off with "this lot". So I did.

When I had chance to take stock of who was in my group I discovered the "Fast Lads". Oh dear.

Things quickly deteriorated when a group of Harrogate Nova riders swished past us at Piccadilly Garage, and just as I was marveling at their speed and style, I heard the cry from behind; "We're not having that are we Dave?".

Oh dear, oh dear.

It felt a bit like we had got mixed up in Le Tour or something. Hell for Leather it was.

Farnham, Ferensby, Arkendale flashed by in a blur. At Marton, one of the Nova riders blew a whistle.; I think this signified breaking the Mach 1 barrier or something.

Then at the junction with the Roman Road, everyone stopped and peace prevailed for a while.

We had been invited, but gracefully declined, to join in with their "structured training programme". No thanks mate; the only structure round here is the chimney on the new incinerator.

So we simply blasted on, leaving them behind. Never saw them again; honour preserved.

More blurred places; Ouseburn, The Aldwark Bridge, (I swear it gets bumpier every time I cross it), Linton was gone in minutes. Zero degrees by this time, but I could smell the toast.

Beningbrough Farm for 1050 can't be bad. What a great ride lads, and further apologies to my mate who got dropped. Sorry, didn't know until we got in the car park.

Usual fare was consumed (yes, the beans moratorium does not start until 1130). Why do they do that? I'm going to start a new section of our club called BAD Boys. (Beans all day).

Lively chat at the table, of the customary standard, and an ever so slightly more gentle ride back. I gather you punctured Dave after we split up at North Rigton; sorry not to be able to help but I was at Rudding before I had heard.

Great day out boys; thanks to all and looking forward to the next one; watch out Team Sky if you're thinking of training in Harrogate!!
DaveS



Medium Plus Ride 2

Ten of us headed out directly to Knaresborough to avoid the Low Bridge melee. James introduced us to the duckpond mini detour at Ferrensby to help with the safety of the crossing and we reconvened at Great Ouseburn.

As we dropped away from Marton the temperature plummeted. We gathered in Great Ouseburn to alter our route due to the potentially very large numbers descending on Beningbrough. Again James came up with a loop beyond Aldwark Bridge to Alne and back to Whixley and Tancred Farm Shop where some EG's were tucking in to breakfast. Paul and John had left us at Great Ouseburn so just eight of us to accommodate at the cafe. Here vast quantities of scrambled eggs were served up, bacon butties and the biggest "small portion" of baked beans you have ever seen. Dave Siswick would have loved them. Back to Harrogate via Cattal, Hunsingore and Little Ribston where the temperature regained its earlier warmth and the sun was shining.

Well done to Kevin who ploughed on in his top ring for the whole ride and thanks to everyone for their collective support on today's ride as we had no leader!!! 43 miles. Gia



Medium Plus Ride 3

The mass of the huge group seemed to settle down the further I went from Hornbeam until by the time we were leaving Knaresborough I was with riders that I felt comfortable with. And on we trundled to Aldwark Bridge, acknowledging the cherry encouragement of the toll collector; marveling at the sky and wondering why the temperature had dropped 4C. As we approached Linton-on-Ouse conversation moved from sprocket development to cafe congestion at Beningborough. Someone thought there may be an alternative at Linton Marina. There was a sign on the road, so we went down to the Marina. It was open and it

was good - I would go there in preference to Beningbrough (there are snags),but it`s a must in summer.

Discussion began about where to go next- I suggested riding through Beningbrough Estate and was promptly made ride leader.With a combination of occasional map glances, looking for signs of mutiny, side of the mouth comments and Paul from Boroughbridge we headed there.The E.G`s influence is powerful and I found that we were heading instinctively to Morrison`s.(I also needed some spuds).

Another discussion and we retraced our steps a little into Roecliffe, Bishop Monkton, Markington etc. A lovely, comfortable, local ride with relaxed, cheerful people and wonderful weather. Thanks to all. Mileage 54 Peter Bradley



Medium Plus Ride 4

There were a lot of takers for the medium plus today so we formed a group of 8 (Andrew, Mike W, Peter, Lesley, Julie, Alison and Liz x 2) and headed out after the fast guys. We had a lovely ride out through Arkendale but as we approached Great Ouseburn it became noticeably colder as we caught up with the fog. Soon we were rattling over Aldwark Bridge and heading past Linton lock when we met Peter J's group coming the other way. Richard informed us all that we were not allowed in the cafe but we decided to continue through Beningbrough grounds anyway. At the Farm Shop another fast group were just finishing so we suggested it was time for them to go and took over their table! Soon we were tucking in to a variety of scones, cakes and sandwiches. At this point we did see Colin and Peter B heading a group cycling past the cafe but they presumably had other plans. Back on the road we got as far as Newton on Ouse when Mike got a puncture which caused a slight delay and no thorn found but he did get back without mishap. Back over the bridge, through Whixley, over the A59 and the railway crossing where we were actually delayed by a train, quite a rarity on a sunday! By this time we were getting tired so the decision was to head to Knaresborough from Little Ribston and then up Blands Hill as it was feared that Waterside would be busy. About 45 miles, a treat for us in January . Liz P



Medium Plus Ride 5

Having divided the Medium Plus riders into two large groups I set off with one group to Low Bridge. At Low Bridge we the divided into a further three groups namely, fast, medium and slow. This resulted in yours truly leading the medium pace group. The riding was plain sailing to Beningbrough Hall and on the way we overtook two groups of Wheel Easy riders. The only point of note was the drop in temperature as passed by Marton-cum-Grafton, very spooky. Beningbrough Farm Shop was full so it was a case of volte-face and head off towards Boroughbridge. Having now ridden for all the morning without a break several English breakfasts were consumed along with BLT's. It was now a case of making our way back to Harrogate. What was supposed to be 40 mile ride ended up as 50 but we all felt better for it. Peter J



Long Ride

Local weather knowledge can be a handy thing when planning a cycle route. Today's reports included fog in Wharfedale and "hill billy" in Boroughbridge; that left only one option – the old favourite, Masham. Perhaps it's not a favourite with everyone, as there were only 3 of us leaving Hornbeam: Phil S, Peter R and Martin D. We all agreed that "touring pace" would be suitable and headed off for Masham by the moderately hilly route through Hampsthwaite, Birstwith, Brimham and then up onto the moors where the sunny weather enhanced the superb view. At Masham we met Lesley and Richard who warned us of the cold weather to the east, a warning we initially failed to heed. As we approached Snape the temperature suddenly dropped about 5 degrees causing us to bear west to approach Ripon via Well and West Tanfield. Our strategy worked although Martin picked up a puncture just outside Ripon. Keeping to the West we returned through the Deer Park at Fountains Abbey completing about 60 miles at the relaxed pace of 12 mph. I can honestly say it was the best ride of the year! Phil.



