

Sunday, January 29, 2017

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 559

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### Medium Plus Ride Tate Variety

This was a day of explosions and pies but, more of that later.

The icy start to the day had induced some reluctance to head west or high but a Gang of Four decided to give it a go, with the option of turning back if conditions became uninviting.

The gang comprised Andrew (obvs), Mike, Liz F and Me and we set off cautiously along the Greenway which was surprisingly fine. By the time we got to Ripley, the sun was higher in the sky and the roads had totally dried out. We picked up Andy at Ripley. He had been eagerly awaiting the Fast Boys but we had to break it to him gently that this was as good as it was going to get – and he happily joined us!

Despite our initial reservations it turned out to be a classic winter day with some just discernible warmth from the sun and plenty of hills to keep us very warm. Near Padside, we head a loud bang behind us, followed by no sign of Mike. We assumed a farmer had shot him, so we just left him and carried on ..... not true! We scurried back and found him quickly and efficiently changing a blown inner tube. No sooner was it pumped up than a second explosion occurred and, on closer inspection of the tyre, we found the culprit to be a large hole. This rather put an end to Mike's day and we did leave him this time (at his insistence!). His plan was to bodge the tyre with a patch to enable him to limp slowly and carefully to the main road until he was intercepted by International Bike Rescue in the form of his wife. Hope you got home safely Mike!

We continued our very hilly route and soon were descending into Pateley Bridge. Yorke's Folly was largely in sunshine, so we only had to stray on to the dark side of the moon briefly and there was no ice. Teacups Cafe was warm and welcoming and the gentlemen ordered dainty teacakes. Liz and I went for the Turkey, Ham and Leek Pie and Baked Potato with Baked Beans respectively. Andrew and Andy warned us we would regret this – and we did. You don't really want gastric reflux when tackling the Wilsill, Smelthouses ascent!! We had largely recovered at the Brimham Rocks crossroads where Andy continued, heading for home and Andrew, Liz and I took the route past the rocks, just to enjoy the magnificent descent to Rabbit Hill Farm and further descent into Ripley, then the final leg along the Greenway.

We didn't really have a leader but Andrew and Andy knew the route well and were at the front, so technically they were the leaders and therefore responsible for all disasters. The Garmin Stats were 38 miles at an average speed of 10 mph. Total Ascent: 1,405 metres.

Thanks to all for a wonderful day out – glad we gave it a go! Helen T



### **Medium Plus Ride James Variety**

Although it was a nice crisp sunny morning, there was concern about the possibility of ice on some of the side roads and at higher levels and so a decision was taken by 6 members to give Yorke's Folly and Pateley a miss and instead stick to something lower. So Jill, Alison, Liz P, Debbie, John and I headed off towards Ripon, taking the route through Starbuck(sic) and Bond End to avoid Abbey Road. Somehow I found myself deputised as unofficial leader as we progressed on damp and in some cases very muddy roads through Bishop Monkton to Littlethorpe, where a decision was taken to go on to Boroughbridge via Skelton. We arrived

to sample the delights of Bean Vintage at the same time as Joe and Geraldine's Medium Group, but there was plenty of room and with the usual efficient ordering system we didn't have to spend too long discuss Donald Trump or other worldly affairs before food, caffeine and tea arrived. At this point John decided to jump ship and return with the Medium Group and as the sun continued to shine the four remaining ladies escorted me on a loop through the Dunsforths (without creating too much trouble for the residents!), Great Ouseburn and back through Arkendale, Lingerfield and into Knaresborough where they deposited me safely at home before heading off back to Harrogate. 40 very enjoyable miles in the usual good company and a sunny day to boot! Thanks to all for their company and good spirits. James G





### **Medium Plus Ride Julie Variety**

Due to the possibility of black ice and a potentially perilous descent of Yorkes Folly , Dave, Rob, Steve and Julie carried out a risk assessment and decided to take a less hazardous route. At the top of Clint Bank we turned right and then left to Bedlam and made our way to Brimham Rocks taking in the stunning views over Nidderdale and beyond.

We cycled on to Fountains Abbey where we stopped to photograph the church and marvel at the colour of the sky.

Freewheeling through the deer park was both exhilarating and freezing but we pedalled on through Ripon and Skelton- on- Ure to arrive at Lister's Farm Shop on the edge of Boroughbridge. ( Highly recommended !!) Sustained with hot drinks, hearty bacon (and egg) butties and a full English for Steve, we set off again, but a mile down the road , Dave got a puncture - not really a day for taking your gloves off and battling with an inner tube!

We returned via Minskip and Farnham, back through Knaresborough and the joys of Knaresborough Hill. (Why does someone always cross the road at that pedestrian crossing?) Amazing views, fantastic weather, fab food and great company .4 \* star ride ( 1\* lost for the temperature) 42 miles, 1905 ft, 12.2 average speed. Julie E



### **Medium Ride**

It was sunny but there was some ice on the road on the way to Hornbeam. Despite the ice, and after an appropriate warning to all to be wary, 6 opted for the medium ride. Caroline was also heading for Boroughbridge, but by a more direct route than ours. We took the main road towards Woodlands Corner rather than going through Hookstone Woods, so we only had to cope with traffic rather than ice. At Low Bridge Alison, Nicky and Graham were waiting for us, so we became 9 (which reminds me of last week's ride report...) as we headed along the usual route to Farnham, Copgrove and picture-postcard-pretty Bishop Monkton, where we turned right towards Roecliffe. This quiet road is excellent for cycling and meanders pleasantly but circuitously to Boroughbridge. Caroline was already well ensconced at BEAN café when we got there, and some of the medium plus group arrived shortly after, having decided (probably wisely) to give Yorke's Folly a miss. After pleasant refreshment, we were joined by Tall John for our return via Aldborough, the Dunsforths and Arkendale. Just after crossing the A1 towards Arkendale, Graham was accosted by two Asian blokes who wanted to know where they were, and how they could order a taxi. They had been dropped by someone on the A1 and wanted to go to Bradford. Graham looked on his phone and gave them a telephone number and directions for the taxi to pick them up. This struck our group as a little strange, and provided a source of speculation for a while. After Ferrensby, Nicky and Graham stopped to buy eggs, and we turned down Sandy Bank towards Knaresborough. I found I had a puncture by the petrol station in Knaresborough, so the rest of the group decided to press on home.

About 36 miles CPS.





### **Short Ride**

5 riders today for the short ride set off from Hornbeam through the showground up to Rudding Lane. Maggie left us here due to the cold weather. The remaining 4, her partner Charlie, Dave, Dennis and myself continued the route to Follifoot, Spofforth, Little Ribston and Knaresborough.

Dennis left us at the Riverside cafe where we took our break. From here we split Dave and Charlie taking on Knaresborough Hill and me Beryl Burton.

A ride of about 18 miles in beautiful sunny weather once the initial frost had thawed.

Jean

### **Gia's Ride**

Apologies from Gia and Sue for not arriving at Hornbeam today to lead the medium plus ride. We did tell our leader! Roads too icy and as Sue is due for her second hip op was quite right to exercise caution.

Four of us did go out at 10.30 when there were still a few icy patches but in the main the sun was burning off the worst and we had a good ride to Wetherby via Spofforth, keeping to the bus route and back via Kirkby Overblow. Good ride 24 miles, Colin, Jeannie, Paul and Gia. Colin suggested that on mornings like today there is a default leaving time of 10.30 for those who would feel more secure going out a bit later. Something to discuss? Gia



### **Long Ride**

Only three regular 'long riders' today, but our ranks were swelled to nine with medium plussers looking for a longer ride than today's comparatively short medium plus ride. We set off somewhat cautiously and avoided Whinney Lane for fear of frost patches, but the roads turned out to be fine, especially after an hour or two of sunshine. We arrived in Ilkley for a rather early lunch via Beckwithshaw, Fewston and Askwith. Ilkley Sandwich Company in the square (a new watering hole for me) provided suitable fare at reasonable prices, albeit a tad slowly. I'm embarrassed to admit having out eaten Dan - another first.

Suitably fuelled, we set off up the Cow and Calf and on to Menston and up the Chevin. Then back via Bramhope (where Dan bailed out to meet a time deadline), Weardley and Kirkby Overblow, after which the party went their separate ways home.

43 miles, 3-4,000 feet of climbing depending on whose Garmin you believe, plenty of sunshine and no rain. All in all, a good outing. RL



**A Joyous Ride**

Having reviewed the ride calendar and the weather forecast on Saturday, Eric and I met at 9.15 to make full use of what promised to be a wonderful January day for cycling, and - my goodness - we were richly rewarded! We headed to North Rigton, Almscliffe Crag and Leathley, with magnificent views over Wharfedale as the sun despatched the last mists in the valley below. There was a quick detour to have a look at the well hidden Farnley Hall and then on to Otley and another detour down Church Lane to Weston Hall and the historic Weston Church, which was sadly locked. Repentance delayed is repentance forgotten? As we were opposite Cockpit Farm we couldn't resist the siren calls and called in for our first refreshment stop. On to Ilkley and Bolton Abbey for more food. Discussion led us via the gated road to Embsay and the steady climb over Barden Moor to Barden Tower. On the climb we stopped to divest ourselves of vests, spats and scarves prompting a young woman shooting down (on bike) to ask if we were OK. This prompted a long and free ranging discussion on her reasons, as this was a first for both of us. From Barden to Appletreewick and then another climb to Stump Cross Cavern for apple pie & custard to fortify for the descent home.

After a short flurry on the front, E took the lead and I almost freewheeled to Menwith but it did allow an appreciation of this spectacular road which is so close to home. I arrived home at 4.15 and my clock told me 60 miles but the real story is the scenery, the wonderful weather and the unbridled euphoria. And Eric! Peter Bradley