

Sunday, February 19, 2017

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 562

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### Short Ride

A merry band of 14 set off promptly from Hornbeam today. Included were 4 Sues, 2 Caroline's, a Peter and a Paul. For a number in the group it was their first outing with Wheeley this year. The weather stayed fine, bright & relatively mild. We took the familiar route to Low Bridge, Scriven, Scotton, Brearton and Ripley pausing occasionally to regroup. We missed out the Mount Garrett Estate following a puncture alert (recently cut hedges) and headed to Ripley for coffee. Great service & sustenance for our large group. Caroline, Jen & Monica left us to do an extra loop through Hampsthwaite and the rest returned along the Greenway. Thanks to all for cheerful company. Nicky & Graham. 19 miles



### Medium Ride 1

Medium Ride - the one with Sally and her spanner! Setting off in two groups of five we lost sight of Justin and his five mates by the time we left Hornbeam traffic lights. So our famous five headed down to Knox village and on to Hampsthwaite using one of Wheel Easy's long neglected escape routes to the countryside. At Hampsthwaite we started climbing to Swincliffe and Tang, passing on the way Birstwith Hall and too much amusement a side turning to "Arse" Beck Lane. A second look confirmed that a B at the front was obliterated - long may it remain so.

Martin leading on his new eBay purchased Airnimal bike stopped with a wiggly pedal that required the crank bolt tightening with a large Allen key. No sooner than Martin said he didn't carry one of those than Sally produced the perfect spanner. All bolted together again we climbed the hill up through Tang and Kettlesing, arriving at the Black Bull to cross the A59.

Now we could smell the coffee and we made a speedy run to the Fewston Visitors centre where the cakes really are something else. And all served by cheerful chatty volunteers.

Finally it was homeward across the Moors past Little Almscliffe Crag and back into Harrogate. Only 25 miles but lots of lovely hills and quiet country lanes. Superb, and all the better for Sally's big spanner. Martin W.



### **Medium Ride 2**

Five went on a very pleasant, and surprisingly hilly, ride. A chance to blow away some cobwebs, and ease back after some nasty winter bugs. Al, Corinne, Dave P., Paul B. and I took a trip down WE memory lane - out via Knox and Hampsthwaite - and then tacked up to Tang, and up again to the back of Menwith Hill. Just the one more climb before we got to Fewston church hall for coffee: it really is a terrific place to stop. And then more climbing out of Fewston to Little Almscliffe: it felt more like the Col de la Petite Almscliffe by the time we got there. Just 40 km, but 500 metres of climbing. As Dave said, a very good training run. Justin



### **Medium Plus Alternative Ride**

Ten of us including Glyn who had ridden over from Bramhope decided that a shortened ride was a good proposition for the day. The miles were about 31 and in that time we achieved 2826 feet of climbing so the ride was no easy option. The original forecast of sunshine had disappeared but we warmed up on the hills and got very chilly dropping down Norwood



edge. There was plenty of room for us at Cockpit Farm where we were well refreshed and made the return journey up to Askwith and the reservoirs. Home in the sunshine by 2 o'clock and good to do this ride "the other way round" and have the wind on our backs for the return climbs. Gia







### **Medium Plus Alternative Ride - Hilly**

With no Ride Leader to plead the cause there was always potential for breakaways- and with the ride going over the Wharfe there were soon suggestions to go the other way and tackle a few hills on quieter roads.

Colin and I suggested a ride to Pateley Bridge via Thruscross/West End and then back via Brimham Rocks- certainly a hilly alternative. We were surprised when another 5 riders agreed to come along – a good size group to struggle with! We set off and made our way to Little Almscliff with the wind in our faces and we were already thinking this might have been a mistake. We then went over the Reservoirs and up to Timble and then turned down to Blubberhouses and across the main A road.

So far it had been routine climbing and, with the weather picking up, we began to climb the Moors with 2 really big steep climbs- Colin and Mike made it all the way up with others having a few touches of tarmac on the way! We then climbed to the main road and set our course for Teacups and some refreshments. We only had a few more 'undulating' climbs and the descent down Yorke's Folly to negotiate before enjoying a big mug of tea.

A welcome break at the cafe with good value food and Mike declaring it was the first time he had done that route- so he hadn't known about the hills! After refreshing ourselves we set off back via Beverley, Glasshouses and then turned up to Smelthouses and more climbs up to Brimham Rocks. Again it was 'steady away' and we all made it to the crossroads and then turned up towards the Rocks so we could enjoy the long ride down to Ripley.

All the hard work was worth it as we sped down and enjoyed a few easier miles before met up again at Ripley to ride the Greenway home. A really great day out- tired legs but having had good weather (even some sunshine), good views, great company and certainly worked hard we enjoyed a great sense of achievement. Well done to Mike who smiled, whistled and sang all the way round and managed to lead us up all the climbs- he doesn't need that new bike he was telling us about!

41 miles and a few metres short of 900m climbing.

PS Best wishes from everyone for a speedy recovery to Sue Couture who had her hip operation at the weekend- hope all went well and we all hope to see you back riding in the summer. Kevin



### **Long Ride**

It was my first long ride of the year so I'd chosen a relatively flat route which just touched on the edge of the North York Moors. Eight set out from Hornbeam, some long ride regulars plus Darcy, Paul & Mark who normally do the faster medium plus. We took a slightly circuitous route to Boroughbridge, with Mark heading home from Aldborough, before heading for Sessay, Carlton Husthwaite & Kilburn & then into Thirsk for a café stop. After refreshments at Arabica where we were made to feel very welcome we took the familiar route back through Sowerby, Topcliffe, Cundall & Boroughbridge & Knaresborough back to Harrogate. It was a smooth uneventful ride of approximately 60 miles in pleasantly mild weather & in good company – thanks to everyone for the steady pace. Jill F



