

Sunday, March 26, 2017

Wheel Easy Ride Report 567

Short Ride

Newly tuned into British Summertime, five noble souls were willing to accompany me on a very sedate (more a reflection of my ability) ride to Little Almscliffe, Pennypot Lane, Hampsthwaite, Killinghall and the Greenway. Welcome to Dan who is about to train for forthcoming long ride later in the year. Di returned after five months of severe back pain – hopefully a thing of the past. She certainly had no problem cycling today.

The route as far as the coffee stop at the Farm Shop on the A59 was absolutely delightful, gambolling lambs, birdsong and sightings of curlews and a kestrel. The Farm Shop logstore proved a good find – Dan ordered fuel and Sue A noted the fine, dry storage facilities for future orders. We returned via Killinghall and the Greenway and encountered Kevin (Keogan) who was whizzing towards us on his vermilion e bike. It was lovely to see him out and enjoying the sunshine and wheels!

Thank you for excellent company everyone especially Dan who tolerated the “chatter” of females!! 23 miles. Sue D



Medium Ride

Ten riders opted for the Medium Ride on a bright, dry and calm day and we set out via the Showground and Calcut for Low Bridge, Knaresborough where we picked up another three riders. The route, well known to regulars via Abbey Road, Chain Lane and Halfpenny Lane to Farnham, Copgrove, Bishop Monkton, Rocliffe to Boroughbridge.

Three riders opted not to stop at a café so we stopped for a photo call in the town centre and then settled in for refreshments. The return journey stayed pleasant as we rode through Aldborough, and Lower Dunsforth, cutting west to Arkendale Ferrensby and Knaresborough. A cracking ride with good company. Distance 36 miles, home by 1.45, Peter B



Medium-plus Ride

You couldn't have asked for a better day to mark the beginning of British Summer Time and eleven riders set off in happy spirits to Beckwithshaw, Timble, Asquith and onto to Ilkley. The pace was steady and enjoyable enabling everyone to enjoy great views in the sunshine. A first this year of sitting outside at the Italian cafe at the station. It was pretty busy and our waiter asked us to be patient in his charming Italian accent. However orders arrived quickly with efficiency and a smile. With everyone suitably refreshed, we started on our ride to Otley. Rob left us at the cafe to do a Langbar loop and beyond. Hope that all worked out well for him. The profusion of daffodils and celandine was much admired on the winding uphill lane to Almscliffe . Ten still very happy riders said goodbye just before Hornbeam all enthusing about the great day out it had been. Thanks to Justin for being the back marker. Monica W

The less leisurely group comprised only six riders today - some former regulars seem to be moving up to the long ride now, particularly when the medium+ looks a bit short or they are in training for the "Struggle". This resulted in a very manageable pace and we had hardly earned our refreshments by the time we reached Ilkley. As has been mentioned it was a glorious March day and Spring being in the air seemed to put a spring in one's legs after the gloomy wind and rain of winter. David W







A smaller group of us decided that we would follow the prescribed route but miss out the Ilkley bit. So with half the group being in the years best described as the Silver Cyclists we road across through Beckwithshaw and past Little Almscliffe Crag. The sun was glorious and the blue blue skies definitely put a spring in the pedals. We used the delightful Low Snowden back route where Dave now tells me there are some cup and ring marked rocks (look them up on Wikipedia!). And then we climbed up to the crossroads before dropping to Askwith and turning left for a grand refuelling at Cockpit farm. After a discussion on the merits of democracy the Leader decided Dictatorship ruled ok, and we followed his favourite route back to Harrogate using the lanes around Farnley, climbing up the long hill to join the B road and then turning right to Brackenthwaite Lane for a lovely long downhill cruise back to Burnbridge and home. 39 sun drenched miles. Martin W



Long Ride

An eclectic group of eight riders set off on today's somewhat unconventional long ride, including several with varying degrees of infirmity and several more with time-limited visas. At Ripley, one thought better of a long ride and at Summerbridge there were no takers for Hartwith Bank. At Beverley, three opted to climb the mountain via Peat Lane (still very rough), while four opted for Greenhow Hill. Eric then appeared out of a farm gateway halfway up Greenhow, swelling the ranks back to eight, only for John H (infirm) to bale out at Duck Street and Dave R (limited visa) at the Appletreewick turn. Onwards to Grassington via Dibble's Bridge, with glorious views, a helpful tailwind and the prospect of Cobblestones cafe.

Following lunch the ride leader (infirm) decided to take up the role of directeur sportif in the team car (cunningly left in Grassington on Saturday evening). The remaining five made excellent progress down Wharfedale until held up by Morris Men performing at Cavendish Pavilion.

At Askwith, three opted to return via Askwith Bank, while the remnants of the depleted peloton refuelled at Cockpit Farm. The advertised return route referred to the Trout Farm, which provoked quizzical glances and some disbelief that such a thing existed. So as a last stop we investigated Farnley Fish Farm, which I thought was defunct at least ten years ago, but is in fact still operational and (according to tinternet) rearing brown and rainbow trout, so I've not yet gone completely mad. Richard L





FARNLEY
FISH FARM