

Sunday, April 23, 2017

Wheel Easy Ride Report 571

Medium Slow Ride

Five set off from Hornbeam, soon to be joined by Neil and Caroline at Ripley. Meandering up some steep hills we reached Brimham Rocks and voted on an earlier pit stop rather than braving the crowds at Ripley. Jean (our ride leader) and Zoe left us to head back to Harrogate.

Great coffee and large slices of cake were the order of the day eaten al fresco with a stunning Yorkshire backdrop.

The rutted gravelly path back to the road was a challenge for Sue C on her Brompton but not for Brian on his mountain bike .

After Brimham it was almost all downhill ! A great 28 mile fairly hilly ride with some sunshine and the usual high standard of company. Bridget



Medium Ride

Fourteen people set off in sunshine to Fountains Abbey. Wheel Easy's fame is obviously spreading as our party included Noah who had come all the way from Seattle especially to ride with us. Luckily and coincidentally, he managed to fit in a conference while he was here! A nice easy run to Ripon via Bishop Monkton and Littlethorpe was followed by some brisk climbs up to Fountains Visitor Centre where the twelve remaining riders took advantage of the free tea or coffee offer with our food. The poor person at the ticket office had to fill in twelve tea/coffee vouchers individually which slowed things down a bit.

Refreshed and refuelled, we rolled down to Fountains Lane and climbed up to Raventofts Head. At the Drivers' crossroads everybody decided to forego the loop down to Hampsthwaite and instead go straight back to Ripley and home to Harrogate along the Greenway.

A beautiful day, good company and 32 miles. Al D

Long Ride

9 riders set out on the long ride today. Littondale being the target destination via Greenhow. There was a coldish wind from the west (although not strong) and the idea being to take the pain from the westerly wind for the morning part of the ride and then cruise home wind assisted in the afternoon. It was obvious on leaving Hornbeam that we were in for some nice sun and clear views.

The ride up to Greenhow was uneventful and at times we mixed with the medium plus group who were heading for Wharfedale. One Rider with mechanical knee problems joined the medium plus group to minimise further injury. We were then down to 8 for the rest of the ride.

At Grassington we opted for an early stop. Cobblestones being packed we elected to use an alternative cafe and the service and refreshments were top class. We left energised and took time to enjoy the delights of Littondale. Returning over the common we turned left to return via Kettlewell. Peter and Trefor stopped at the village shop for more refreshments and we made our way back south to Grassington in beautiful sunshine and improving temperatures. We then headed for Burnsall and Bolton Bridge for our second stop. Sitting outside, relaxing and participated in wheel easy banter/conversation !

We returned to Harrogate via Askwith and Fewston with significant help from the wind. In fact on Penny Pot land PJ set a pace exceeding 30 MPH at times which some other could not live with (Kettlewell flapjack or training in North Wales must be good)

We did 79 miles and 2000 metres of climbing. Great company, fantastic weather, beautiful countryside and overall a great day out. Martin D





Medium Plus Ride

A group of ten left Hornbeam with guest rider David joining us and heroically shielding us from the wind at important times. Thank you David. Colin Pritchard joined us at Norwood and left us at Stumps Cross. Paul left us at Greenhow for we hope a great cup of coffee at Toft Gate Barn.

So then we were 9 and having made it up Duck Street and refuelled at Stumps Cross we were happy to make it to the Skyrholme Road where we would be certain of the wind behind us and it was. We had a good run to Bolton Abbey making way for Ilkley riders steaming up the incline through the woods and on to the Beamsley Road. When Wheel Easy started in 2006 and we used this road down to Ilkley it was a popular route for cars to use as some sort of short cut. Today we did not see a single car which suggests that cyclists have staked their claim to this road and quite rightly too.

We stopped for a second cafe stop at Cockpit Farm where we were joined by Bianchi Bob who had been cycling round for two weeks looking for us!

The quickest route home for tired legs was along to Pool, Castley and Kirkby Overblow. A splendid ride about 56 miles in excellent company. Gia



Medium Plus Ride 2

Sunny and fresh weather for the start of the ride turned warmer as the day progressed, although fresh was an understatement for the cold headwind we fought against from Stump Cross after the cafe stop. Three groups of a dozen or so set off on MediumPlus. The faster group we never saw after the start, whereas we continuously met Gia's group which headed off up towards Leeds Road. To avoid congesting the Harrogate roads, I navigated through St Georges and Rossett to Otley Road and met with Gia before Beckwithshaw. Several riders were unaware of the cycle paths we took - GET A COPY OF THE HARROGATE CYCLE MAP ! Knowing these paths and cut-throughs is a great asset.

After Beckwithshaw we pressed on past Little Almscliff and then turned right at Norwood. Deviating from the described route we turned left on Wydra Lane to High Fewston and then up to the A59 past the new Farm Cafe. Crossing the very busy A59 we took Meagill Lane to head north on Duck Street to Greenhow, pausing only to trespass on the verge at the T-junction for a rest and through sheer devilment After the cafe stop at Stumps Cross and the cold descent to Skyreholme, the weather and the scenery got better and better. Traffic on the minor roads north of the river was generally light and the group kept pace together pretty well - except when the leader left his own daughter behind - I could almost sympathise with David Cameron, but I won't !

We crossed the river at the Cavendish pavilion and then took the delightful route through Beamsley across the river from Addingham, Ilkley and Otley. After all the talk, no-one took a cafe stop at Cockpit Farm - when Gia's group were parked up. As a final set of hills were needed, we went up to Farnley School and then down to Lindley Bridge leading to a stiff uphill before the '5 CTC Ladies' took the route to Little Almscliff via Stainburn Woods - I hope you had a great journey home, the remaining 7 of us continued on road to the top of Brackenthwaite Lane and then Burn Bridge and home. Not quite 55 miles - just 51, but pretty strenuous and good fun. Peter L





Short Ride

A lovely sunny day for today's short ride, especially those attending the Harrogate Spring Flower Show but not so good for those running in the marathon!

There were a couple of new riders today, Gail and Peter to join myself, Di, Jane and Val.

The plan was to head through the Showground and out to Rudding Lane. This was slightly thwarted by the incoming one way traffic to the show so we were re-directed round the field. Some of the traffic slightly impatient not wanting to wait for us cyclists to cross.

Still quite busy along Rudding Lane but once onto Hags Road, things got quieter and eventually on towards Little Ribston where we had to remove clothes as it was really warm by now!

Back towards Knaresborough, Di decided to go that little extra and headed for Chain Lane whilst the rest of us, cycled along Abbey Road. Val left us at Abbey Road and the remainder headed towards Forest Moor, Hookstone Chase, Greenfields Road and back to Hornbeam.

Thanks to you all for your company on a glorious day.

Hope Peter and Gail enjoyed their ride J SueT

