

Sunday, June 25, 2017

Wheel Easy Ride Report 580

Wheel Easy 11th Anniversary Rides

Short Ride

Three riders set off from Hornbeam, myself Alan and Barbara meeting Nicky at the High Bridge in Knaresborough.

The traffic on Bond End was hectic so we took the longer route via Waterside, Abbey Road, Chain Lane out to Boroughbridge Road and Farnham.

We had made good time so we had another little detour around Littlethorpe arriving in Spa Gardens around ten to two. Just perfect.

We enjoyed the super cakes and drinks on offer. Thanks to Caroline at Spa Gardens for the catering and Jill Jackson for the organisation and tea/coffee pouring. Great job.

We set off back with Caroline via Markington and Ripley where calamity befell me when my chain snapped. I'm sure Caroline will elaborate but I made it home thanks to Graham getting his van and meeting me at Ripley, Caroline pushing me now and again, bit of freewheeling and a bit of pushing.

Great day out! Jean B

Medium-Slow Ride

- a) A lazy wake up with no rushing.
- b) No rain, a shimmer of sun, and a gentle westerly breeze.
- c) About ten people wanted to do the Dunsforths to Ripon so Joe who had to be in Ripon for 2.30 suggested an amalgamation.
- d) Malcolm joined us for another Onbikedest.
- e) We took up a steady pace to round the back bike paths of Harrogate and Knaresborough towards the Dunsforths.
- f) A photo call next to the vinyard gave us a taste of the Loire.
- g) At Boroughbridge the lure of Bean Vintage was too much for Malcolm and Graham.
- h) Joe departed for his musical date with Geraldine and her newly rebooted eyes.
- i) Only 2 hours to battle the newly born headwind from Boroughbridge to Ripon...which we did ladyfully.
- j) Arrival at The Sun Pavillion and Jill setting out a delicious variety of cakey sort of goodies.
- k) Sitting in hot sunshine watching the other groups arrive from far and i imagine, wide.
- l) Dave P. getting well deserved recognition for being a lovely man and we had a tell tale photo taken.
- m) We decided to join the short riders on their route home via Markington and Dave and Helen decided to push speedily on.
- n) Well that was perhaps a silly move, as there was a force 12 warm westerly or northerly or southerly or easterly wind swirling.
- o) We battled a never ending headwind all the way from Ripon to the steep hill before the Drovers development.
- p) At this point Jean's chain broke and Graham the Galant tried to mend it with bits from all of us.
- q) Then G the G volunteered to forge ahead to get his van to pick Jean and her bike up and take her home. Lovely person.
- r) Jean walked and scooted towards Ripley and as Malcolm over took us we hatched a plan that could help Jean enormously.
- s) Malcolm sped past.....plan failure...Jean sat in the sun and waited for her lift home.
- t) Three of us were left to drift down a by now nearly deserted Greenway.
- u) Nicky left us at the Starbeck fork taking her route back home.
- v) Monica and I sauntered back to Harrogate.
- w) 44.89 miles.with 146 floors
- x) Perfectly honed cores and floors thanks to Nicky and Helen s en bike instruction.

y) Thank you all Short, Medium Medium and Slow Medium riders I for one had good fun today.

z) THANK YOU JILL FOR YOUR BRILLIANT ORGANISATION AND THE W.E. COMMITTEE FOR BUYING US THE LOVELY CAKES AND COFFEE.

Medium Ride

It seemed strange turning up at Hornbeam at 10.30 with only medium riders about but a group of eight of us got together and headed up the Greenway and on to Hollybank Lane, after a pause at Ripley and saying hello to Dennis, who was returning from his ride.

At Clint I was horrified to see it was already 11.30 so then we had to get a move on! Through Burnt Yates and we were soon passing Brimham Rocks and heading for Dallowgill. Peter took the track while the rest of us went round by road. Peter won the race and was waiting for us. The views were wonderful and we hoped that our team photo would include a flock of sheep but a Landrover headed them on before the camera was ready. We swooped downhill to Grantley, then through Aldfield into Fountains. There was still time to get our free drinks and eat our cakes and scones, plus plenty of chat before heading to Spa gardens to meet up with everyone and have more tea and cakes served by Jill. Our return route was back through the deer park to Watergate Lane and whizzing down to Ripley with a lot of other WE riders. About 46 mile and over 3122 feet of climbing.

A warm welcome to Andy who was on his second ride with WE, the first being two years ago, and a big thank you as he has seemed to have fixed my bike. Thank you everyone for contributing to a great day. Liz P





Medium-plus Ride

To paraphrase a football commentator, today's faster medium plus group experienced a ride of three thirds. The first third was a brisk 90 minutes non-stop run to Easingwold, where our group of nine dismounted at The Curious Table cafe. A curious, if unfortunate, feature of the Curious Table is that its outside seating stays resolutely in the shade. It seemed like a good idea at the time, but we just had to toughen up and enjoy the shady breeze.

We had strict instructions to arrive at Spa Gardens at 1400 for the Wheel Easy tea & cake 'do'. Given we were ready to head off and warm up by 1145, we then faced the challenge of how to cover the 17 miles to Ripon in 2 hours without having planned properly an alternative route (I hold my hands up to that oversight...). So, the second third of our ride started with us rolling out on the planned route at a deliberately slow pace. However, our peloton struggled to move slowly and the pace climbed. We decided to attempt the suggested extra section via Cundall, Asenby, Rainton and Dishforth, even though we didn't really know the route and my map didn't extend that far.

Somehow we actually rode via Melmerby, Wath and Hutton Conyers, through a combination of team direction finding, following road signs, judgement (not always accurate on my part!) and luck. Our diversion did the trick and we rolled into Spa Gardens at 1345 having covered 50 miles. The cake display was a sight to behold and much appreciated (thank you Jill for the cheery welcome!), as we set about blobbing in the sun.

The final third of the ride was a speedy run on the planned route via Littlethorpe and Bishop Monkton to Knaresborough. A later than usual arrival time in Harrogate was hopefully offset by the knowledge we had covered about 64 miles in fine weather (although there seemed to be a headwind regardless of which direction we travelled in), two decent food and drink stops, and good company. Many thanks to all for patiently accepting my inconsistent route navigation! Michael I

Medium Plus – Medium Ride

With the bulk of the Medium Plus riders leaving on the fast ride this left only four riders interested in going to Easingwold. With the luxury of a tailwind we made remarkably quick progress and arrived in Easingwold while the fast group was still partaking of refreshments. Having eaten huge chunks of bread, with or without bacon, it was time to head to Ripon. By the time we reached Cundall we were still ahead of schedule, this despite having to deal with a headwind from time to time. Not wishing to be too early for the bun fight at Spa gardens we did a loop via Asenby and Rainton arriving at Spa Gardens on time. PCJ



Medium Plus - Slow Ride

Another great Wheel Easy day! A big thank you to Jill and the committee for organising the eleventh anniversary celebration. It was lovely to see Dave being acknowledged for his contribution to the success of Wheel Easy.

A group of us decided we would take a more leisurely ride to Ripon and having Dave Preston with us we knew the pace would be right. After Goldsborough, Arkendale and the Dunsforths we had a longer than normal stop at Bean Vintage in Boroughbridge before we headed to Marton Le Moor and onto Ripon. As we arrived in Ripon just after 1pm James, Steve and myself headed to Olivers Pantry for lunch while the rest added a loop around Ripon.

After the celebrations we headed home via Fountains Abbey. Paul

Long Ride

Well, for me personally, that was a tough ride! I think I'd picked up something on Friday night because on Saturday I felt rough. I rode into Hornbeam, so that was twelve miles, and after another twenty I started to feel like death warmed up - and for the last 30 miles it just got worse and worse.... A rear puncture did little to lift my mood but at least some of the others benefitted as it was halfway up Ellingstring, so they had a rest! Ride highlights (such as they are!):

- Letting Ridewithgps.com do the job, I managed to find a new route out of Harrogate. Some of it good and some not so. I might modify it and try again!
- Apart from the blustery wind, the Sunday weather was great and better than expected (by me at least!).
- I managed to find a new route through Well. It was a bit chippy but most, including me, hadn't seen it before.
- Thornborough Henge near Masham was the archeological gem we visited. If you haven't been there, read up about it, and walk around it sometime. The largest religious site in the UK. And aligned with Orion's Belt.

- Glyn picking up numerous stones that kept jamming his rear wheel because of the small clearance to his calliper. At least he didn't puncture.....
 - Very quiet roads and no hassle at all from cars.
 - I'll shorten this route if we do the Spa Gardens tea and cake ride next year. At 50 miles, it was about five miles too long.
 - The great atmosphere in Spa Gardens and the presentation to Dave Preston, a great Wheel Easy man.
- John H



Anniversary Tea at Spa Gardens









Dave Preston writes:

To Wheel Easy.

Dear Friends,

Thank you for that presentation I received today at Spa Gardens Cafe, it was the icing on the cake, and the cakes also could not get much better.

The collection of photos will have pride of place in our home, and the golden bell will be put on my touring bike.

The day could not have been better, and when we have good weather in our great countryside (which is nice), it is still always people that really make the day, and in this area we are very fortunate in Wheel Easy.

Once again a sincere thank you for your Friendship and Fellowship.

Dave P.