

Sunday, November 19, 2017

## **Wheel Easy Ride Report 601**

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### **Short Ride**

This morning was a bright sunny cold late autumn (or was it early winter) morning. Nine riders set out from Hornbeam and along the cycle paths to Ashville, then past the Squinting Cat pub to Beckwithshaw. After that it was a ride across the moors with fantastic views in the bright morning sunshine. We headed for the Fewston visitor centre knowing that the quality of the cakes is unsurpassed and we were not disappointed. In this case the sticky date cake won accolades and the coffee was warming on such a chilly morning stop. Then after a discussion on how far people want to ride we headed slightly north crossing the A59 at the Black Bull Pub and turn down into Kettlesing. Wandering along the pretty lanes was delightful and soon we were turning down the hill into Birstwith before climbing up again to Clint Bank. After this we rode gently along the Greenway through Hollybank woods, Ripley, and then returned along the Greenway all the way through to Bilton Lane where we all split up and headed home in different directions. Today's ride was 24 miles and congratulations are due to Margaret and Paul, our two newest riders, who achieved this distance with ease and it included some fairly substantial hills. Well done to both! Martin W.





### **The Other Short Ride**

A suspicious person in the cafe at Ripley.



### **Medium Ride - Liz's Group**

The Medium riders split into 2 groups this morning and I lead a group of 8 once we collected Mike P at Low Bridge. Once again, the weather was kind to us with some sunshine, little wind and wonderful views. The route was to Farnham then up to Burton Leonard where new rider David left as he had to get back for 12. However, he did say he would join us next Wednesday. The front riders had to be called back as they sailed past the turning in Bishop

Monkton then we all stopped by the river to pose for a photo in the sunshine. Soon after we found Dennis at the back of our group so we were all told to do our best to break the speed record into Boroughbridge so we could get to the cafe before Angela's group! Mike attempted to slow us down so he could chat to the very cold 'lady' outside the pub at Roecliffe but we left him to it and he soon caught us up! We all headed to Vintage Bean but found it was closed so headed for the replacement to Tasty Snacks, possibly called Pretend ,where we were well looked after. The return was the lovely run through the Dunsforths though I did take a wrong turning ending up on a road I hadn't done before which took us to the edge of Ouseburn. The return was past Marton to Arkendale, an egg stop at Farnham then through Lingerfield to avoid the traffic lights and escort Mike home. As we reached the top of the hill out of Knaresborough we found Angela's group so we were then able to split into different groups as we all headed home. We seemed to have done about 40 miles but much of it was very flat. Many thanks to Angela for volunteering to lead the 2nd group on her 1st time as leader and doing a great job. Liz P



### **Medium Ride – Angela's Group**

A good number of people turned up at Hornbeam to make the most of the beautiful day. The medium group was split into two and Angela was given her L plates to lead the second group with Joe supervising from behind.

All went well until a missed turning to Burton Leonard but this was promptly rectified and we continued on our way. We had a photo at an intriguing old mill in Bishop Monkton and discussed the possible history of the apparent blocked up windows. Dennis and Gordon left us there and sped off for refreshment at home. We were disappointed to find the Vintage Bean in Boroughbridge closed but had a good repast at Gilchrist's café instead.

It was then on to the home stretch with some gorgeous autumn colours. Joe noticed Brian's soft tyre and gave it a new lease of life with his super pump. We parted and went our

different ways, with a few following hot on the heels of some from group one taking the short cut through the houses back to Hornbeam. Angela



### **Medium Plus - Group 1**

It was two degrees! The sort of weather that takes your breath away, sucks the heat out of your body and makes your teeth hurt. However, we had blue skies, sunshine and no wind, with the prospect of the temperatures rocketing up to six degrees later in the day.

Our group started with six leaders, namely Justin, Maris, Monica, Debbie, Keith and Me. Somewhere along the way we lost Debbie and gained Sue C – destination Fountains Visitor Centre. It was a delight to tackle all the hills as they kept us warm and we all enjoyed hot drinks and cakes and a fairly democratic discussion on the route home. Plan A was to cycle down through the Deer Park then left to the main road and loop back to Fountains Visitor Centre. At the bottom of the Deer Park some wag suggested it would be nicer to go back the totally scenic route so, having marched us down to the bottom of the hill “he” marched us back up again to return via Watergate Lane. It was indeed scenic and everyone was happy and there were still some eggs for sale at the Rocking Horse Farm. A swift descent to Ripley and pleasant amble along the Greenway finished off a delightful winter’s day in perfect conditions. Mileage was 38 quality miles and all six leaders did very well. Helen T



### **Medium Plus Ride – Group 2**

Many thanks to Janet headlining her first Wheel Easy ride leaders day and ably assisted by her group had a great ride. Thanks too to Monica and Helen who corralled another group to keep our numbers manageable.

The day and the ride can only be described as spectacular, cold but we felt the warmth of the sun, clear and sunny so splendid views and a unanimous decision for the cafe stop at Oliver's Pantry where we met Janet's group. We added a slight diversion to Markington so that Colin could enjoy the "Watch out for Toads sign" and home via Lingerfield to drop off Colin and to check if James really was doing his packing.

Lovely day, thank you to my group, an excellent 43 mile ride on a wonderful winter's day.  
Gia



### **Medium Plus Ride – Fast Group**

As there was a large turn out, presumably due to the gorgeous weather (how lucky are we) three groups set off - ours being the first. The seven of us safely negotiated the scene of my ridiculous accident and cycled happily to Little Alms Cliff. Boy was it 'nippy' and at this point my hands were like blocks of ice. After Menwith Hill we turned right towards Birstwith - a road I haven't cycled on before. Perhaps a good job that Helen and a couple of others had done this route a few weeks earlier. Deciding not to stop at Fountains in favour of getting a few more miles under our belts we sped through the Deer Park. Sadly, not a deer to be seen although they were probably in 'Santa Sleigh' training for the big day! One of the group had lived in Ripon and knew the location of Oliver's Pantry and we had a lovely stop, closely followed by Gia's group. With the majority of the ride done we returned through Littlethorpe, Bishop Monkton and into Knaresborough where I'm sure I saw James Grimshaw disappearing under a pile of packing boxes. Up the Knaresborough Hill we went and then everyone deserted me, peeling off to go home. That left two of us to return to Hornbeam. We covered 42 miles at an average speed of 12.2mph. 2949 feet of climbing and 1903 calories burned (less the teacake in Ripon) It was a lovely route with a lovely group of people - thank you for keeping me on track. Janet



### **Long Ride**

Another fine November Sunday, anywhere would be a good ride today. Possibly some thought they were "anywhere" except the group destination. An impromptu cafe stop at Tadcaster was called for to allow Peter R to change a rear tube at 2 degrees, but the café was full of other cyclists. After waiting sometime sun bathing in Sainsbury's car park, it was decided to take a steady ride to York to allow Peter to catch up. So, a blast on the A64 cycle track for 100 yards and then indirect roads to Millennium Bridge and a busy Cycle Heaven cafe. Peter's bad luck continued with a lost food order. The sun had clouded over as we "hare and tortoisied" the Sacre's back to Knaresborough though splits formed from before Ribston. Home for 3:30 as per schedule, so something went right. Richard P

