

Sunday, February 18, 2018

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 613

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### Short Ride

Eight riders braved the early morning frost hoping for better temperature later in the morning. Sadly not to be.

Despite wearing thermal layers and using hot hands foot warmers there were several reports of body parts suffering in the cold. Nevertheless we pressed on through Knaresborough, Scriven, Lingerfield, Scotton, Nidd to Ripley and the reward of a cafe stop. Have to say the cherry and almond scone was delicious. Glad I passed on the opportunity to share!

Back to Harrogate via the Greenway, around 20 miles. No otters to be seen on the viaduct when we passed but a large hare had crossed our path earlier outside Nidd.

Thanks to everyone for joining me. Jean B



### Medium Ride

It was zero degrees when I went for the papers at 7.00am. "This is nice", I thought as I slid elegantly, and unintentionally, round the corner of our road.

At Hornbeam it was still zero degrees but with the prospect of reaching six degrees by lunchtime so eleven optimistic riders set off under the care of Alison and Keith who seemed less uncertain of the route than the rest of us. Paul B intercepted us in Pannal after nearly missing us. He had had his binoculars trained on Church Lane but we came via a slightly different route after a very small navigational kerfuffle at the start. We passed Bill briefly, heading in the opposite direction, "going home". I like a man of few words!

The feared ice did not materialise and confidence grew as we flowed seamlessly through Kirkby Overblow, Dunkeswick, Weeton, Castley and towards Otley. As we were now twelve, it seemed prudent, for logistical reasons to go to the cafe at the bottom of the hill by the boating lake and, inauspiciously, next to the children's playground. This is not the most chic cafe on our list but it did have some rather enticing looking cakes, huge bacon sandwiches and absolutely average coffee. Yep, it was full of children, demanding ice creams. Don't they realise that eating brightly coloured ice cream in the depths of winter is really bad for them. Our table was engrossed in a fairly intellectual discussion about books what we have read and ranged from the Knights Templar to the Bible. Paul B regaled us with tales of

plague, pestilence and retribution, the worst of which seeming to be the Golden Emerods. Don't ask – just google it or look on the dark web.

Anyway, well refreshed, we set off on the hilly second half of the ride, still cheerful in the slightly gloomy weather but you could soon make out the distinctive crags of Almscliff in the distance. Here there was a short, democratic discussion on the best route back, then Keith and Alison told us what we were going to do. This form of democracy works really well and they managed to keep just far enough ahead, out of earshot of any wailing and gnashing of teeth that may or may not have ensued.

We did in fact stick to the original route with the joy of Brackenthwaite Lane at the end and everyone was glad to have made the effort to get their bikes out and enjoy a good workout and a few moments of uncontrollable laughter – which is not uncommon when you have Mike the Vet in the team!! The mileage was 28.something quality miles. Helen T





### **Medium-plus Ride**

In the absence of a designated medium plus faster-group leader today I navigated us round the route with the timely input of group members keeping us on track. Our group of seven riders became eight, when Trefor joined us en route through Knaresborough, adding a considerable extra chunk of power to our little peloton. The route today meant we had to take an early cafe stop in Ripon or not stop at all, as there are no cafes beyond Ripon on this route until you're so close to Harrogate that it's not worth stopping. Our stop in Oliver's Pantry was therefore notable for the absence of bacon butties and my personal favourite, the fish finger ciabatta. Suitably fortified with scones, we worked our way round the rest of the route, averaging nearly 15mph and about 900m of climbing. Thanks to Trefor, Darcy, Mark C, Paul B, Grant, Dave and Mike for a good ride. Michael I

On a chilly but dry early morning, a group of eight set off from Hornbeam and were quickly joined by two extra from a faster group. We had already decided to reverse the direction of the "official" route to get the hills completed early. After a chilly run round the Greenway we proceeded up to Brimham Rocks (noticeably warmer), down to Fell Beck and up over Dallow Gill moor. As we proceeded through Grantly to Galphay we came across a wandering Colin Thompson who had been thrown by the earlier route reversal decision. Colin joined us and we descended into Ripon for coffee at Oliver's.

The route home was via Markington and Drovers as no one fancied the climb & exhaust fumes out of Knaresborough.

A good early year ride on a rare February day with virtually no wind. Steve S.



### **Long Ride**

The long ride gathered a fair number of riders, most of whom were huddled around Eric's upturned bike. The general consensus was that Eric's brake problem necessitated an immediate return to base. Au revoir, Eric.

After this slight delay, seven of us left for Masham by the hillier route involving Brimham Rocks and the moors. We had all been warned about the prospect of icy roads and I anticipated that we may have to alter the route. Thermometers measured around 0 degrees in Hampsthwaite but, surprisingly temperatures climbed as we climbed; 4 degrees at Brimham Rocks. The high ground was much warmer than the valleys.

We arrived in Masham just after 12:00 to find a table in Johnny Baghdad's reserved for us. Bonjour, Eric. Well done, a rapid bike repair and, thanks for being there first to bag a table. Next, Colin turned up to swell our numbers to nine riders – it's a rare event when a long ride finishes with more bodies than it started with. Thanks to all. A good day out on a chilly February day. Philip S

