

Sunday, March 11, 2018

Wheel Easy Ride Report 615

Short Ride

At last a touch of Spring and hopefully not another false start. Eleven riders enjoyed a gentle and chatty ride up to Beckwithshaw and then over the moor to Little Almscliffe Crag. We dropped down the other side and turned right on one of our favourite back lanes, unfortunately now covered in loose gravel following the severe frosts. Caution is needed on the bends and junctions and thanks to Paul for undertaking gravel warning duties. We turned up towards the A59 and stopped for a photo at the remains of what must have been one jolly big snowdrift.

Then we swooped down to Kettlesing before turning up onto another favourite back lane at Tang. Well, we knew there might be some water in the dip but it was seriously deep this time. I thought afterwards we should have taken a photo but oddly no-one wanted to go back for a second go. At Sophie's there were lots of soggy socks but it didn't seem to dampen the conversation that ranged across the hot topics of the French translation for Ostrich to where did the book of Revelations appear in the Bible. Wheel Easy is nothing if educational! Then homeward by differing routes. A most enjoyable and sociable 24 miles. Martin W.



Medium Ride

Six of us set off in dry weather that, for a change, wasn't absolutely freezing for a short tour around the northern slopes of Wharfedale. We took the forestry track through Stainburn Forest after reaching Little Alms Cliff, and despite the recent rain it was in very good condition. We dropped down to Braythorne, past the Honey Farm (sadly closed at this time of year) and through Stainburn, climbing up to Almscliffe.

Then heading away from the hills, we dropped down to Huby, went through Weeton and Dunkswick and finally stopped at the pub in Kirby Overblow for some coffee or beer, there not being a decent cafe stop on the ride. Refreshed, we headed back to Pannal and home. A lovely 23 miles. A D



Medium Plus Ride

It all started so well. I offered to lead the first of two 'slow' groups. Best weather for weeks. A route that was just about right following time off the road, short-ish but with plenty of hills - Swincliffe/Tang, above Kettlesing, up from Padside ... and then disaster struck. My rear gear cable snapped, close to the handlebars. After much deliberation, I decided to head home, and managed to avoid any serious hills. Justin K. ...

We were sorry to lose our leader due to bike mechanics but the rest of the group managed to join up again on the descent of Yorke's Folly, we enjoyed the wonderful views whenever we dared to take our eyes off the road! The fast group were just leaving Teacups when we arrived and despite their tales of food running out we were quickly served and there was plenty of room. James's group joined us soon after. The tractors were making a lot of noise on the Showground when we arrived and later there was a huge circle of them. Our group returned via Bewerly, Glasshouses, Smelthouses, Burnt Yates, Clint and Hollybank Lane to Ripley and home. We all agreed that we had had a great day out. There was lots of sunshine, 36 miles and over 3,000 feet of climbing. Liz P



Medium Plus Ride (Slower Group)

With the departure of the Fast Boys there were 18 of us left and with the prospect of collecting two more on the way we split into two groups, with Justin kindly offering to take one group (without knowing what was to befall him at the furthest point from home) and I took the other. We progressed in good order through Harrogate centre on a route little used now, so that made a change and having collected Paul at Killinghall we took the route through Swinecliffe, Tang and Kettlesing, taking the branch to the right in Kettlesing which brought us up another little used lane on to Delves Ridge just short of Menwith. By now the day was getting a little warmer and layers were shed at intervals as we moved on past the Storehouse Inn and through Padside, just beyond which my group came upon Justin holding his rear cassette cable with a somewhat frayed end. Efforts to tension the remains of the cable and tie it off proved fruitless so he abandoned to return home by the flattest route, which we later heard he had accomplished without further mishap. The two groups then intermingled a bit and after a photo shoot at the top of Yorke's Folly it was onwards and downwards into Tea Cup. Fortunately, the Young Farmers Charity Tractor Run from Knaresborough to Pateley and back confined themselves to the Showgrounds in Pateley and tables and supplies at Tea Cups were plentiful, despite the shouted taunts from the Fast Boys who were just leaving as we arrived. Following assorted cakes, caffeine, and sandwiches Justin's group got away first, not to be seen again so hopefully they arrived home safe and sound. Our group then debated a softer option of returning along the valley, but in the end stiffened the sinews and headed through Glasshouse, where Eric returned home directly on a time constraint and the rest put some more hills in the 'leg bank' up to Brimham. Then as a reward we diverted from the published route to return past the rocks and down past Wilsill and Warren Forest to the Drovers and Ripley. Both Ripley and the Greenway were busy but we came gently along to Bilton Lane and as I couldn't interest anyone in a loop through Knaresborough we went our several ways home. A lovely 40+ mile ride on a day that turned almost spring like and in the usual excellent company. Thanks to all. James G.



Medium Plus Ride (Slightly Faster Group)

So, with what seemed like spring knocking on the door and rider's wondering whether they had to many layers on 10 of us set off to the west and hills accompanied by Mark who was making a welcome return to the saddle. We glided through a quiet Harrogate on our way to Knox and out up to Killinghall probably the mildest weather for a while and a hint of sun we entered Hampsthwaite once granted a charter by Edward the 1st to have an Annual Market and fair on the feast of St Thomas the Martyr in 1304 and the final resting place of Leeds Brewer Joshua Tetley. Left at the Joiner's we started to head uphill towards Swincliffe and high Birstwith we joined the back road down to Menwith base have regrouped on the Menwith road and some de-layering we hit Duck Street and headed towards the old Stone House inn and up Dyke Ln and its long climb to York's Folly and down the steep decent known locally as Nought bank road with its tight bends and pot holes arriving nicely in time at Tea Cups for snacks and coffee and to watch the gathering of the annual tractor rally. Back towards the hills and Glasshouses we climbed out of Wilsill Bridge all the way up to Smelthouses and Brimham Rocks some of the group split and headed directly for Burnt Yates the rest put in a small detour around the rocks and the great decent down past Rabbit Hill farm and on to Careless lane avoiding tractors and trailers we join the Fountains road and through to Ripley picking up the pace where we split again as we all headed home after a hilly but enjoyable ride.

Tony p

Long Ride

PLAITITUDES

A Most Pleasant Play from the Cast of The Long Ride

The Players

JILL, The Queen

DAVE S, a Bon Viveur

PETER J, a Champion

ERIC, a faithful Knight

DANIEL, The Narrator

JUSTIN and ALASTAIR, two brothers
MARTIN, PETER B, RICHARD, DAVE B, GLYN and PHIL, the *dramatis personae*

P R O L O G U E

JILL: My friends, I must turn to you for aid. For I was to write this play: but I cannot. Is there among you one who can bear this burden?

DAVE S: Alas, I am abroad, sunning myself in distant shores Antipodean.

PETER J: Alas, I am decrepit, not fit for glue; my mettle is damp.

DANIEL: I will do it.

JILL: Thanks, Dan. (Exits)

DANIEL: Who would join me on a jaunt to Embsay, the route rarely travelled?

ERIC: Ah! Here is a play already writ; For 'twas my plan, cruelly stolen by the Snow, one week hereto to perform it. But here; it is yours, and I will even publish it to the website for you. And if you would lead, then I could perform my church duties and meet you at the Bridge o'the Burn.

DANIEL: Thanks, Eric. (Exeunt)

A C T 1, winter

DANIEL: Who is with me?

JUSTIN, the *Dramatis Personae*: We!

PETER J: I! Though I am weak, I may follow.

JUSTIN: My brother will join us too; for he lives below the Crag of Alms Cliff.

ALASTAIR: Who comes trip trip trapping up Brackenthwaite Lane?

THE COMPANY: We!

DANIEL: Shall we hasten on, or await Sir Eric?

THE COMPANY: On!

RICHARD and PETER: We shall follow, but at the front.

Enter ERIC.

ERIC: Ah! Well I awaited you; but when you did not show, I turned to find you; but then methought you had gone on by another way; so I did give chase. I have perchance covered many more miles in my efforts to find you! Anyway, here I am.

DANIEL: Welcome, faithful Eric!

THE COMPANY: On! (Exeunt.)

A C T 2, spring

DANIEL: We have dined well at Tea o'the Green! but lost Sir Richard. Who comes with me to Embsay?

THE COMPANY: We!

MARTIN: Actually, Peter J and I will take the Fifth, and take the easy route; For it is yet early in the year, and our bones grow weary. But fear not; we shall await you at the Cavern of Stumps Cross.

JUSTIN: Is there something I should know?

ERIC: Ah! A challenge awaits us after Embsay - a sapping slog up to The Moor, and down again besides; but fear not; for the climb to the Moor is less arduous than the one from the Wick o'th'Apple Tree, and the downhills will hearten thee.

JUSTIN: But do we not have to face both challenges?

ERIC: Oh! Yes, well there is that.

JUSTIN and THE COMPANY: Oh well, in for a farthing... (Exeunt)

A C T 3, summer

GLYN: It's Santa! Yet it is summer!

PETER B: Less cheek, youngster! I saw your play on the Interscrolls, and liked what I saw; and set off solo to match your endeavours. But it is a delight to make your renewed acquaintance, as it has been many a month.

THE COMPANY: Have you perchance heard word of Sir Richard? Or our loyal Sir Martin and Sir Peter?

PETER B: I have not; but we may yet encounter them at Stumps. Shall we attempt the Climb of the Wick o'th'Apple?

JUSTIN: How can it be, that Sir Eric can continue to converse so lustily while the slope so strenuous is?

GLYN: Maybe he has had a whiff of a damsel, and it has heartened him; for do they not dub him Eric of the Pheromones?

DANIEL: Eric and the Pheromones? Methinks that is the name of his popular beat combo and his backing minstrels?

DANIEL: Who is with me for a cuppa and a Full English?

ERIC, PHIL, GLYN and PETER B: We!

THE BROTHERS: On! (Exeunt)

PETER J and MARTIN: Tell them we came, but no-one answered; but now that you're here, we're off. There is a warm place reserved. (Exeunt)

PETER B: But look! one more is getting away! (DAVE B exit, pursued by a Dan).

PHIL: Five Beans and a pot o'tea, please.

A C T 4, autumn

GLYN: Let not Eric take the lead, as the pheromones may o'ercome us!

PETER B: Tarry not on my account; for I set my own pace, and do not wish to spend my energies in competition. (Exit)

GLYN: Fare well, friend; but be sure to get those Yule gifts delivered ere the New Year.

ERIC: Ah! The Wound! I must dismount; continue, my friends; the play will be a resounding success regardless of how many players weave in and out of its rich tapestry.

PETER B (from afar): If for tapestry you seek, Glyn has knocked out a cracking shawl in his spinning classes...

ERIC and PHIL: Fare thee well, Gentlemen of Yorkshire! Safe return - a Ride for all Seasons, no? (Exeunt)

GLYN: Who is with me?

DANIEL: I!

GLYN: All's Well that Ends Well? (Exeunt)

(C U R T A I N)





