

Sunday, May 27, 2018

Wheel Easy Ride Report 625

Short Ride

At the last count nineteen riders opted for today's ride. Numbers had started to look promising before we gathered in the assigned area of the carpark so I have prevailed upon Joe to lead a separate group who may wish to undertake to same route at more than my sedate pace. Joe modestly said his lead would not be faster but very kindly agreed to it anyway. In the event, this worked seamlessly (Jean Battison's words and she's on t' Committee). Joe's group set off first.

My group was very pleased to have Anne R. join us as she had met with a nasty fall en route to Hornbeam and had popped off to clean up before joining us and subsequently cycling like a good trooper. Great progress was made via Forest Moor Lane to the hole in the hedge without incident. At this stage, Jean did her magic unzipping and emerged butterfly like from her chrysalis of long sleeves in a very attractive sleeveless gilet - very classy and from Lid!! Gasp of awe and wonder over, we pedalled on to Follifoot, had a photo at the front of Rudding West Gate and were joined by Anne's husband David and then the rest of the Joe Brigade.

They were amazed by the speed with which we had reached the heights of Follifoot AND so were we!!!! It transpired that they had taken the Showground Cycle Path rather than Hookstone Road. Upward and onward in two groups and our next rendezvous was outside the Brethren House near Knaresborough. Discussion re coffee at the Waterwheel or Ripley ensued. Sue T had backmarked beautifully but was suffering from a sore back and very kindly offered to lead anyone wishing to return to Harrogate at this juncture. Alison, whom it was love to see, was also suffering following her car accident so she and Graham joined Sue. Hopefully, all will feel better soon.

The group system was re established with one or two changes and we hit the highways and byways of Scriven, Lingerfield, Scotton and Nidd at a healthy pace eventually congregating at the Ripley Cafe. Inevitably, on such a glorious day, the place was busy and so we dispersed ourselves by asking people to "hutch up".

It has to be said that Jean B acquitted herself magnificently by asking a pair of cyclists if she could share their table. Four more of us followed Jean and had the most interesting conversation. Jean had already passed a Wheel Easy card and we had explained the brilliance of the club's raison d'etre with no required lycra! This captive audience then explained that they were cycling to Dent, staying overnight and returning tomorrow but for a wonderful reason. The young lady was just about to undertake a sponsored ride from London to Prague. She and fellow students from Leeds University are raising money for Candlelighters - the charity based at Leeds Teaching Hospitals for children with cancer. They agreed to be photo ed and we wished her every success. The service was rather low so cyclists returned individually and are, hopefully, now relaxing in their deckchairs!

Especial thanks to Joe and Sue T for leading their respective groups and thank you to everyone who played so well. Sue D







Medium Ride

Lovely day, lovely route, lovely company! Thirteen of us set off to make our way to Fountains and Ripon on a beautiful morning. The only downside was Helen and Keith having to 'retire' at the top of Hollybank Woods.

We made our way up the 'cote de Cut throat Lane'. It's not a route we've used much recently, so a good test of the legs. We pedalled along to Fountains, sailed down Studley and arrived at Spa Gardens. It was very busy, but service was efficient and the baking was as good as ever.

We then cycled back through Littlethorpe, Bishop Monkton, Lingerfield and Knaresborough along generally quiet roads. A most enjoyable ride. Thanks to you all for your company.

[Sorry a couple of people are missing from the photo. Another cyclist kindly took it for us]
Alison N



Medium-plus Ride

Eight of us left Hornbeam on a perfect morning, for one of the highlights of the Calendar - Little Almscliffe, Greenhow, Grassington, Appletreewick, Ilkley, Otley. I adopted my usual approach to ride leading, channelling Kim Jong-un, but it soon became clear that Dave S, Helen B and Janet weren't suited to my regime. They were sent ahead, quite possibly to their deaths. Or beans on toast at Grassington.

This left Andrew, Liz P, Monica and Steve, who acceded to my reasonable demands - lunch at CoffeeCo at Grassington, mandatory cake at Cock Pit Farm, and Farnley/Lindley as the least-worst last bit.

The wind was a bit rubbish, from the north east on the way up Duck Street, and then - in spite of my orders - a stiff easterly the moment we set off from Grassington, making for tired legs by the end. But, a fantastic day out, thanks to all, and particularly Liz for back marking (Away Day organisers please note). 61 miles and 1360 metres/4460 feet of climbing, according to Strava, which is quite alot. Justin K



Medium Plus Advance Party

We were very happy to be riding in Justin's group of eight, but being obedient team players, Janet, Helen and I set off up Duck Street into a pretty strong wind, ahead of the rest, and ground out the eight or so miles up to Stump Cross.

Seemed to be no point in waiting there as it was very busy, and about a 50mph wind, so we carried on to Grassington, paying appropriate respect to Dibbles Bridge enroute.

Speedy service for the beans on toast (four beans grade) and toasted teacake (looked perfect), and we were just about to leave when Justin and the rest of our group rolled in.

A bit of chat confirming the onward route and we were off again, only to our great surprise, to meet up with our fast section just past Threshfield. We trailed behind them for a few miles, again showing our respect, when Julie and Debs asked if they could join us. Why not? The promise of an ice cream stop at Cavendish Pavilion never materialised as we could not see the ice cream caravan; I guess with all the crowds they must have sold out and gone on their own day out.

Very busy past Bolton Abbey and through the little bridge, with some motorists' tempers fraying then along the relative peace of the back road to Ilkley via Nessfield. Always nice.

A goodly pace was maintained through to Otley where we met up with Rob Moody, out on his own before a night out at a Bryan Adams concert. Good to see you Rob.

It was Rob who christened our group Dave and his Babes.

A bit of quickish time trialing down the main road followed to Pool where Janet continued on to Bramhope, and Julie and Debs disappeared. Quel damage, but no sign of them. Do hope you got back safely. We could not understand where you might be and so had to go on.

Castley, Dunkeswick and the usual route through Kirkby Overblow, and back home with very tired legs.

Thanks ladies for an excellent day out. Dave S.





Long Ride

Minutes of the long ride meeting held on 27 May 2018

Venue: Yorkshire Dales

Present: Messrs Leake (chair), Hackett, Dowling, Townend, Giles, Pugh, Stell, Roberts

The meeting convened at Penny Pot at 9.15am with six attendees, proceeding to Hampsthwaite to collect two more.

At Kirkby Malzeard the question of two or three stops was debated, with a majority in favour of three stops at Masham, Buckden and Stump Cross.

Johnny Baghdad's at Masham resumed normal service after 'Tea-gate' a couple of Wednesdays ago. Messrs Stell and Pugh gave apologies for the remainder of the meeting, to return home via Lofthouse. Messrs Dowling and Roberts elected to proceed to East Witton via the main road to avoid the climb over Ellingstring.

We passed dozens of Struggle the Dales riders going the other way; the unanimous view was that we were glad we weren't among them, especially as the temperature rose.

Onwards through East Witton, Coverham, Agglethorpe, West Witton and West Burton, we arrived into Bishopdale. The climb proved hot and arduous; in fact well qualified for work as a bar steward.

Over the top the tailwind turned round to a strong headwind and we were glad to retreat to Tanglewood Teas in Buckden for some respite. This is an excellent little cafe in a lovely location which we hadn't been to before. The general view was that it was a good find.

Mr Townend elected not to stop as he was worried he might seize up, and Mr Dowling set off early as his pace was slowing, leaving the meeting down to four members.

The wind was a most unwelcome constant, making the slog up from Dibble's Bridge very hard work. Mr Roberts avoided it by going via Appletreewick. We nearly returned to six at Stump Cross, but Messrs Townend, Dowling and Giles left shortly before the remaining three arrived.

At least Duck Street was only a cross wind and we soldiered on in varying states of tiredness until eventually everyone made it home.

A tough ride of 70-85 miles and a lot of uphill and headwind, but the Dales looked magnificent in the sunshine and overall it was a grand day out. Richard L