

Runswick Bay Monthly Thursday Cycle Ride 26th May 2023 – Bref O'Rourke



Six riders set off from the bottom car park which meant a stiff climb to start with. Weather was fine and cooler than expected. On reaching Newton Mulgrave the group split. Terry Coupland and David Allison deciding to stick to tarmac and tackling 'Twat Hill' (Strava) while Bob, Len, Dave T and myself went cross country to meet on the moor. Big mistake taking the overgrown and

inaccessible bye way! On reaching the moor road Bob decided to retire due to his hip playing up. The remaining five riders split up again with Terry sticking to tarmac again while the rest took the forest bridleway. The forest was a bit muddy but much dryer than on my recce two weeks ago. Meeting up with Terry we cycled up the road to Ugthorpe for our scheduled first stop and a bite to eat. After fortification, once again Terry stayed on tarmac while the rest took to the bye way and bridleway leading to Mulgrave Farm. Then disaster struck! While pedalling through the enchanting Peel Wood my chain snapped! Bugger! I needn't have worried though, Dave T to the rescue! Having that we failed to repair the chain Dave decided the only course of action left to us was for Terry and his e-bike to tow me on my chainless bike using a length of washing line Dave always carries for such an emergency. So, after deciding to take the shortest route back, off we went and at first it was working well, in fact too well for me! Following the demon rider at 30mph was somewhat scary especially taking a sharp bend without slowing down. Alas the line snapped and after a few more attempts we decided I'd better walk the climbs and get a push on the flats and freewheel downhill. With Terry riding back to his car at Danby and Dave T needing to rush off so that left David, Len and me to savour a well earned pint in the Royal. Big thanks to everyone for joining me today and especially for getting me back to my car.

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