

Dave's Mid-Week Run - All around the Wrekin and beyond – 24th August

Most run organisers try and come up with a new route each year, or maybe go round an old one in the opposite direction, which makes everything look different. But after a few years it can feel as though you're running out of new options and this year I decided to update a route that I took us on for the Autumn Run in 2014. I wondered if I'd have complaints, but even those who rode it last time seemed to have no memories of it, which either says something about how memorable the route was, or about our ageing memories!



Fourteen riders signed on at Tony's Diner, a pleasing turn out given the weather forecast was for rain (it didn't), and a number of regulars were away on holiday or otherwise busy. We had a tremendous range and variety of bikes, from Paul Raybould's 1934 BSA Blue Star to Neil Porters 6 cylinder Honda CBX. In between, 1950's Velocettes (three of them), a BSA Star Twin, two Moto Guzzi V50s, Barrie's round case

Ducati, Paul's Harris Matchless, Rob Todd on his 50's Matchless, Keith Little on the BMW R65 and Dave Rennicks 1997 Yamaha SRX 400. Ian Harris also came on his scooter, and it was very good to see him being able to get a day out.





The route took us from Tony's Diner north via lanes through Rindleford at Catstree, through Badger and Brockton to Sutton Maddock. Then across the river to Broseley, then past the south end of the Ironbridge. This last section involved 3 sets of traffic lights with a mile, one being a five way set! We then skirted up and down and back up the valley side to Little Wenlock before riding down past the east side of the

Wrekin, heading for Wrockwardine. It was here at the foot of the Wrekin that I had to alter the route from last time as there is now a one way system that meant we had to go nearly into Wellington before being able to get back on our route. The coffee stop was at the Long Lane café on the A442 a couple of miles north of Telford. Some did indeed have coffee, while others went for a full English Breakfast (it was gone 12 noon).



After the stop we headed back down past the Wrekin, this time along the west and southern sides, before dropping down to Leighton and making our way through Cressage out to Acton Burnell and beyond. The route then took us towards Lawley hill, passing its northern end and along some more difficult lanes with potholes and some mud up the centre, up through woodland onto Wenlock Edge. We then dropped down to Bourton, and Monkhopton. After that the route took us up Beaconhill Lane, through Criddon and back to Bridgnorth. However, when Keith, Ron and I got to the top of Beaconhill (we were bringing up the rear), we came up behind a farmer walking a cow and calf slowly along. It looked like they may be going some distance so we retraced our steps back to Monkhopton and took the main road route back through Morville to Bridgnorth and then Tony's Diner, where most of the others had gathered for tea or coffee. The weather had stayed dry and there had been no major problems, which for me counts as a good day. Thanks to all for coming.

David Spencer