

Bill's Severn Valley Run Sunday - 24th July 2016

On return from our holiday in Swanage I was alarmed to find our answer machine jammed with requests for information about my Severn Valley Run. The most message intriguing was from Mick Leach of the Burton Section who wished to join us and throw out an invitation at his Section's Tuesday Club Night.

In anticipation I printed extra sheets and on my arrival at Tony's Diner Quatford I was overjoyed but a tad concerned about the overwhelming turnout. My 30 route sheets were quickly snapped up by our eager participants and for those without, I suggested a 'Follow my Leader' with me at the front end. On entering Tony's diner I found the Burton Section tucking into a hearty breakfast, all 10 of them. Well done lads, you deserved it.

An unbelievable 36 signed on with machines ranging from Moss Trupp's delightful 1929 Ariel 500 'Norman' to David Gaffyne on his twist and rapidly go 2006 Honda Scooter. For an Octogenarian David does not hang about! The Signing-on Sheet was overwhelmed by 9 Triumphs mostly Daytona's and also included 7 BSA's, 4 Ariels, 4 Hondas, a brace of Velos from Messer's David Spencer and John Shaw. This was Dave's first day out on the bike after a 3 month lay-off following back surgery and I know he was very glad to be out and about again. Other bikes



included the immaculate Norton ES2 of Ian and Lesley Goodhall, and a pair of Matchless-AJS 500's. On the topic of pairs we collected a brace of Moto Morini 'V' twins and the remainder of the signing on sheet consisted of a BMW R100T, the shiny 350 Enfield ridden by Tony and Chris Shaw and finally a splendid and nowadays extremely rare 700 Silk Two Stroke of Burton member Richard Ballard (above). Oh how I lusted after one of those in the late 70's. An exotic piece of machinery which would probably have been wasted on yours truly.

Right: Julian Edwards, Maurice Hardy and Eric Greenfield in conference at the start.



Promptly at 10.30 our first riders were away and heading towards Quatford Wood, Worfield, Albrighton, Burnhill Green and finally over Sutton Hill for our first views of the Severn Valley. From there our route took us along the Severn, through Coalport and onto our proposed coffee stop in Ironbridge.

I and my 'routeless' colleagues were 'Tail-end Charlies' and left Tony's just before 11 but motored steadily to join our mighty gathering on the bridge, all except for Brian Jones and Stuart Munroe. They were leading the pack; Brian failed to stop at Ironbridge and Stuart couldn't catch up with him in time for it to be worth coming back!



Left: Dave Spencer's Velo MAC and Ron Higgins BSA B33 arranged for the traditional poseurs photograph at Ironbridge.

Despite the drizzle Bill Orchard and I tucked into our ice cream cones but noticed members escaping from the Eley's Pie Shop next door armed with pork pies and pasties. However none approached Colin Lloyd's record of 9 pasties last year (one to eat and 8 to take home). God bless you Colin and you would no doubt be overjoyed to see your BSA and Ariel Huntmaster out and about on this year's run and in very capable hands.

From Ironbridge we motored along the Severn through Buildwas and Leighton before turning left and down the bank to cross the Severn at Cressage. From Cressage we went towards Much Wenlock before turning off through

Harley, Kenley, Hughley, Church Preen and Longville. In Longville we headed towards Hope Bowdler and Rushbury for a 7 mile dash to Monkhopton with stunning views of the Long Mynd and Wenlock Edge along the way.

After Monkhopton we made the steep climb to Middleton Baggot and down the steep drop into Borle Brook to join the Ludlow Road and onto the Bridgnorth by-pass for our return to Tony's Diner and Sunday Lunch.

Well ladies and gentlemen all went well with no reported breakdowns and our weather although not perfect gave us some decent riding conditions. It was nice to see Roger Slater recovered enough to be out on his immaculate 1960 Tiger 100 after his recent tumble into a ford on his Tiger 800.

It's been a long time since 36 riders signed on for one of our Runs. I thank you sincerely for your amazing support and look forward to seeing you with your bright and sparkling machinery for Trevor Bull's Flight of Fantasy Run on 4th September for which I've now sorted out a route. It's a cracker of 59 miles duration starting from Tony's and finishing at The Eagle and Serpent at Kinlet. Sorry to have changed the finish destination from Tony's, but they are trying to keep the pub going after the death of the Landlord and deserve our support. I hope we will have some clean, mud free roads so as not to spoil your polishing activities!

All the very best Bill Danks



Left: more machines at the start; and right: Jonathan Clarke's BSA A10, which underwent some serious smartening up during last winter and is a credit to him.