

## Clun Run (or Tony's to the Middle of Nowhere) – 30<sup>th</sup> June

South Shropshire and the Welsh Marches is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the Clun Run gives access to this hilly area. The area is probably the emptiest part of England and Wales. The Clun Run benefits from wide views and empty roads but being remote means there is a scarcity of eateries, clean roads and petrol stations.



I approached organising this run with some trepidation as I usually have the help of Stuart who is ill at present, I'm sure we all wish him well. I arrived at Tony's to find the breakfast club just finishing their meal. Pleased to see Barrie Jones, a new rider on a 750cc Ducati (left), a bit of a hand full I thought but he had his own support team, his wife Raki following in her car, so he would be OK. Sorry Barrie this is probably the most nadgery ride we have so come again.

After signing on the riders, I waited till 11.00 before leaving to give any late arrivals the chance to join. My first worry was at the ford at Strefford but it was much reduced from earlier in the week, so no loss of riders there. Well into the ride I had not caught anybody up so thought all was well until I caught the first leaver. So where were the rest, lost forever in those dark green hills? But all was well as we came across them at the map change, Phew!



Alan Bromwich at Strefford on his Moto Guzzi V50







Lunch was at the Greyhound at Llangunllo run by Paul who had run a motor bike shop and who still has some classic bikes stashed away. The route out there had been 65 miles, a lot of it on narrow lanes, often 'three-ply' with grass up the middle, and the riders were glad of a break and a sit down. Dave Spencer remarked that run organisers do like to take us on lanes that we haven't been on before, but this had gone further by taking us on lanes that *no-one* had been on before! We shared a Barbeque with a rounders event who were still playing so remained unseen. The pub is the type I like, genuinely old and was used for a film with John Hurt the name of which I do not know. Barries wife had managed to find the pub and was there waiting for us, having relied on a few directions and an AA road atlas, quite an achievement on her part, given the very remote location. Also at the pub we were joined from a contingent of four from the Shropshire section who I signed in, so a total of 18. Sorry about the ambiguity about direction from the pub and spelling mistake, if you didn't notice them neither did I.

As the run out was so nadgery I had made the run back faster on bendy roads to a last rest stop at the Appletree at Onibury for a drink and pork pie with pickles. This was not well attended as most riders were hopefully ridden out and had made their way home. The whole route from and back to Tony's had been about 114 miles, Rob Todd remarked that it had been a proper Old School North Birmingham run!



Brian