

## Two Soups (Routes) Mid Week Run – 19<sup>th</sup> June

We sometimes get complaints that the roads we often go down on our runs are too narrow/muddy/gravelly/dirty so the idea was mooted to have a run with two separate routes. So having been the one to suggest we could have a run that used a normal for us minor roads route but also a cleaner faster route for cleaner faster bikes, I was duty bound to organise one. Of course that meant that I was organising two runs effectively, but hey ho.

After much activity using online maps I devised two routes that shared start location, coffee stop, lunch stop and finish. Out on the road I tested both routes and theoretically the two groups of riders would arrive at these locations at similar times. Not knowing how popular, or otherwise, this idea might be I printed twelve slow route and eight faster route sheets. However, comes the day, the weather was pretty uninviting for a ride out so the turnout was somewhat disappointing.

Seven bikes assembled at Rowberry's, Chaddesley Corbett, or rather six bikes assembled there while Paul H' decided to assemble at Tony's Diner our more usual start point. He realised something was wrong when he was the only one there but a phone call from him to our Sec' David got him on his way to join us. We had a varied selection of bikes. Two BSA's, two Hondas and one each Moto Guzzi, Norton and Velocette. Me on my Commando and Paul on his Honda XBR selected the faster route, the others going on the more traditional route.



We left Rowberry's with the weather improving and headed by different routes for our coffee stop at British Camp, Malvern. Us two "fast boys" getting there about five minutes before the rest, so not too far out with the timing. The cafe at British Camp (left) is thoroughly recommended having very

reasonable prices and excellent homemade cakes. During our stop Martyn, our Chairman, informed me I'd taken him down a road he hadn't been down before. Quite an achievement to find a road in our locale that he hadn't been down!

The route to our lunch stop took the slow boys through a ford (*we prefer to think of ourselves as adventurously taking the road less travelled! Ed.*).

We had quite a bit of rain leading up to the run so there was a suspicion the ford may be “difficult” but I had driven through it a couple of days earlier to check and it wasn’t a problem. I was in a car though! As it transpired everyone negotiated it safely. Both routes went through the Hole in the Wall near Ross on Wye. A lovely little road that runs along the bank of the river Wye and is very picturesque (below).



Not too far from there was our lunch stop and again us faster folks got there about ten minutes before the rest, so everyone was together for lunch, which was at The Moon, Mordiford, which is actually where the Hereford VMCC

section have their meetings, so a group of old motorbikes and their riders wasn’t a shock for them and they looked after us well. We all sat together on a large table and put the world to rights over lunch. I knew the food was pretty good because me and my other half Lesley had eaten there several times leading up to the run. All in the interests of research of course.

The plan after lunch was to meet up and finish at the Bringsty Cafe but fate stepped in and changed that plan. Lesley & I got there via the fast route but Paul had to head towards home as he needed to be somewhere before 4pm. Sadly the slower group didn’t make it. We had been joined by a new member, Kevin, on his 1956 BSA B31 (below) for his first run out with us, and the first longer run on the bike. Sadly his magneto decided it didn’t want to be a magneto anymore and despite the best efforts of everyone he had to call for recovery, while everyone else headed for home. Worryingly he was not conveyed home until very late in the evening.



All in all it was a mostly enjoyable day out going in a direction that we don’t often go and the weather was mostly dry. Would I do a run with two routes again? Maybe, wait and see. Thanks to those who did turn out and hopefully had an enjoyable ride.

Ian Goodhall