

22nd August - Mike's Mid-Week Run

Our run on Wednesday 22nd Aug started from Halfpenny Green Airport where, appropriately, we all lined up in the Taxi Rank opposite the Antique Centre in bright sunshine.

18 signed up for the ride. Dave Roberts brought his mighty Matchless Model X, complete with Fray Bentos Pie tin air cleaner. Bill Danks joined us with his Morgan, but did not do the run; Martin Griffiths came to see us off. It was good to welcome back Alan Bromwich on his BSA B31, he having been unable to ride since May due to a mishap.



We set off past Highgate Common to Enville village where we joined the A458 for a short way, then into the narrow, potholed Hollies Lane, passing the Enville Brewery. We went through Shatterford and on to Trimpley, where unfortunately Dave Roberts had a close encounter with an oncoming lorry which left him no room. He was squeezed between the stone and earth bank and the lorry, the gap just too narrow for him to get through. Dave was shaken and bruised but appeared to be not injured. The Matchless suffered a bent footrest and damaged headlamp. Dave was able to continue to the coffee stop after some temporary repairs. There was a short holdup in Bewdley for traffic lights at some bridge repairs, then we rode alongside the River Severn towards Stourport. The coffee stop was at Midwest Moto where we were well received at Mark Grinnall's Indian dealership.



The upstairs cafe offered coffee and cakes and the showroom has a good display of the Indian range, all very impressive. Mark even brought out two demonstrators for us to try. John Jones took up the offer and was still out when we all left. Dave Roberts decided to return home and rest his 'bruised' leg, but not before sending Mark Grinnall out on the Matchless X so that he could sample a "proper" Vee twin, bent footrest notwithstanding. (Below: It's not a trick of perspective, and Paul Harris hasn't shrunk, the Indian really was that big)



Page 2 took us up Burnthorne lane, through Heighington on to Bliss Gate, then the A456 for a short way, branching off towards Far Forest. A turn to Furnace Mill then took us through woods at Sturt Common and on to Kinlet and the B4363, where the bigger bikes could stretch their legs a bit. We bypassed Bridgnorth via Morville Heath. Through lanes again to the outskirts of Broseley we then followed down the course of the old Coalport hill climb of the 1900's.

At the 1911 event, fastest time of the day was recorded by W.D. South, riding a 7hp Indian. He is reported as riding up the hill at "tremendous speed". Appropriate for our run.

We, however, went down the hill, crossed the River Severn and then turned left for our lunch stop at the Coalport China Museum YHA café. Those who followed page 3 back to the airport, in true NBS fashion, ignored the "road closed" sign at the A442 roundabout and followed the B4176 to Stableford where we turned off for Badger then past Rudge Heath and via Claverley back to the airport.



Thanks to everyone who turned up, to the staff at the airport, Midwest Moto, YHA cafe and the weather fairy. A big thank you to Stuart and Martin for checking the route and giving good suggested improvements.

Mike Cutler

An unfortunate postscript: by Friday Dave Roberts' leg had swollen sufficiently for him to seek medical attention, revealing a broken bone in his lower leg, despite which he had continued to start and ride his big Matchless. Comparisons could justifiably be made with The Black Knight in Monty Pythons Holy Grail, who, whichever limb was cut off next described it as 'merely a scratch'. NBS riders are tough! Ed.