

Ian's Taste of The Levis Run – 26th July 2023

It's often quite a challenge when organising a social run to think of something a bit different. Our members know pretty much most of our local roads so it's hard to find somewhere new to go. I'd entered the Levis Run for the first time last year and the morning route was particularly good so I decided to use that as a basis (thank you Martyn) and give people who don't do the Levis a taste of what it's like. The test hills in particular.

We assembled at Mid West Motos near Stourport for our 10:30 start. Thanks to them for allowing us to do so. They had the new BSA on display alongside an original Gold Star. Also below is Steve Jones' very purposeful looking BSA A10.



In the days leading up the weather forecast had looked decidedly wet but the day dawned sunny with a forecast for a dry morning at least. A varied selection of post war machines gathered and made our number up to 18 machines. We had 3 visitors join us, 2 prospective members and a member from the Hereford Section, he sadly we didn't see again. As we use route sheets it means that people can travel at their own pace and gradually people left the start to make their way.

The first test hill is Flagstaff, very steep, gravel in the centre and a sharp right hand bend part way up. From there the route headed through Clows Top then via more minor roads, through Bagginswood to the next test hill, Farlow Bank. This is another really steep climb with a rather nasty sharp left turn at the steepest part near the top. You probably need to be in first gear before that bend or you are going to struggle.

Having coped with those two hills the route continued, mostly via smaller roads, to the next challenge, a ford! Some of our members have had problems negotiating fords in the past so we try to provide an alternative and I had done this. The ford we were going through, at Clee St Margaret, is rarely very deep but is quite long and has a bend in it. I hoped most people would go through it and I'd gone ahead, by missing out the test hills, to position myself to take some pictures as people rode through. Happily the plan worked and everyone that tried went through without drama. Three of our number managed to get lost and miss it out though. On the right there's Mick Stanley followed by John Shaw on their Velocettes. There was also some milling about and being sociable in the sunshine (below).



The route then went down Whitbatch Hill which the Levis comes up normally. This hill was used for the reliability test but I don't think we are able to do that test anymore due to "red tape". After Whitbatch it was on to The



Squirrel at Ludlow for lunch. They obligingly put us in a sort of private area in the pub and I think everyone had an agreeable lunch.

The afternoon route I had devised was to take us up the hill at Ankerdine, Knightwick, and then on to finish at The Cob House. However, the weather was looking rather threatening so consensus was to follow the route as far as Tenbury and then head for home. We did that too and just got home before the heavy rain started.

Thanks to all those who came along, and the positive comments. It was an enjoyable day.