

Tour of Worcestershire - 21st May 2022

Although called a Tour of Worcestershire, my previous runs have really been in the four counties of Shropshire, Warwickshire, Gloucestershire and Worcestershire, due to the strange shape of county boundaries and the need to avoid the City of Worcester which occupies a great deal of it. This year I was determined to try and make it mostly within Worcestershire, or at least the Western side of it.

Re-locating to start from Tony's Diner for the first time proved a popular move, with many people getting a few extra calories on board for the day's riding and generally having a good chat. Our section member Stuart Munroe's family had the misfortune to call upon the vital and excellent support services of Compton Hospice earlier in the year during his late wife's illness and he was present to collect sponsors for his 25-mile Charity Cycle in support of Compton taking place the next day and many people added their names to his list. We had also decided that the usual signing-on fee of £2 would be donated to his collection and the can collected £101 of your very generous donations. In total Stuart's efforts raised over £2000, and well done to him.

The 22-bike line-up was a broad cross section ranging from 1939 – Jonathan Jink's trusty BSA WM20, to the 2007 Triumph T100 of Alan Bromwich, whose eligible bike had refused to come out to play. Our Streetly contingent was represented by Keith Little on his BMW R65. A speciality among the lovely line up, was the BSA A10 combo of local member Lawrence Roe, the very stylish chair of which is an imported 1955 Tilbrook Dandaloo from Australia and is one of only 4 known to exist out of 6 produced. Three Worcester Section members – Richard and Jude Caddick on their Goldwing and the spritely 91yr old Bob Arnold on his MZ - came along to check what we trespassers were up to on their patch.



Nobody was in a rush to get started and it was about 10.45 that the first riders set off to cross the river and head south through Kinlet. This road had been threatening closure for weeks, giving me a real headache. However, they were just preparing to tar-wash and dress the road later that day, so we had escaped the dreaded stone chippings by a whisker.

Turning left to Meaton and Furnace Mill, the roughest road of the run, took us to Far Forest crossing the A456 to Bliss Gate, entering Worcestershire through Rock and Pensax to Stanford Bridge. At Shelsley Beauchamp we came across Julian reminiscing with Jonathan about his daughter's recent wedding at the All-Saints church, certainly a lovely setting.

Most people took a break at The Talbot at Knightwick before we wound our way through Linley Green and Acton Green to Cradley (this one's in Worcestershire). Entering the Malvern Hills A.N.O.B., we came across our mandatory road closure, just as we needed to turn the page over. It was just half a mile long and, as there were no workmen present, we were able to ride through very easily. However, the barriers at the end of the closure were at the junction of a side road, making it look like the junction that was 0.2m further on, causing some to head into Colwall Green. However, it seems that the renowned NBS nose for food got them safely back on route at British Camp café. Phil and Lindsay Wilson also went missing between Cradley and the British Camp. I was informed there may be a mileage error on the sheet which could account for this, though they were later spotted, safe and sound, at Mid-West-Moto on our way back to Bewdley.

Keeping west of the hill, we headed through West Malvern to Longley Green and Bransford, heading for yet more cake etc at the Worcester Section's favourite Cob House café. Suitably refreshed (again), the route headed through Wichenford and kept west of the river to Bewdley and back to Tony's Diner, though most people went their separate ways home from here on.

Both the weather and the company had been perfect, and I am not aware of any breakdowns or punctures (not even Neil Howells), so thank you all for coming along.

