

# North Birmingham News

NEWSLETTER

## The Clun Run

We were greeted by Ian at Bridgnorth with a very good gathering of some 25 riders signing on to a dry start to the morning.

A couple of riders joined us from the Burton area setting off early to ensure they did not miss the start.

There was a very broad spread of machines ranging from 200cc up to 750cc with the average machines being from around the 1950's.

We set off around 10.15, the route took us firstly in the general direction of Ludlow through the Ludlow Race Club.

Due to the large numbers, the coffee stop had to be split between two venues with slightly different routes, the majority opting for Harry Tuffin's. where we were treated to freshly cooked bacon sandwiches and a large mug of tea.

As the morning progressed we passed through some wonderful views as the sunshine had broken through.

The route was certainly a good test of the machines and riders skills as we encountered several very steep hills which were covered with loose gravel on the outskirts of Clun

Many thanks to Ian for his very successful and last run this year.

I hope everyone enjoyed the ride as much as I did.

*Julian*



## The Autumn Run

My Sunbeam and I were at Noel Clarke's place before 10.00am, imagining that it would be ages before anyone else turned up. However within only a few minutes the first group had arrived and the trickle soon became a flood. Finally, I was most gratified that 20 riders with eligible machines signed on and a few others on more recent bikes also came along for the ride. Thanks to everyone for taking me at my word and turning up early, ready to set off at 10.30. This we duly did and I wanted to get cracking because we had some miles to cover before coffee! I had completely re-planned the morning route, although the coffee and lunch stops remained the same. Taking in places like Belbroughton, Wychbold and Hanbury, we made our way to the Jinney Ring Centre for coffee. Unfortunately, our arrival coincided with that of another two groups of people, including a cycling club, so it took a while to get served. Ho hum. This new route had proved to be a bit bumpy for some riders, who elected to make their own way from here to Upton on Severn and lunch. A wise move for some, but they did miss a bit of a gem (as a number of riders agreed with me); namely a half-mile stretch of un-metalled road near Feckenham. I've known about this lane for as long as I've been riding bikes and I was determined to incorporate it into a run, so today was the day! I'd checked it out in my family car, so surely it would hold no terrors for us on old bikes? To be fair, I think one or two people didn't like it, but I had set an alternative route, so you pays your money... Anyway, now the run really got going and we headed into the Vale of Evesham, seeing signs for villages like Bishampton, Throckmorton, Cropthorne, Great Comberton (one of my favourites!) around Bredon Hill, over Eckington bridge and on to Upton for a rest and a stretch!

This was the lunch stop but, unlike in recent years, we

couldn't use the King's Head because the unfortunate owners were still recovering from the floods back in the 'summer'. It was good to be able to put something back into the economy of Upton on Severn, though.

I hadn't changed the afternoon route at all (although I probably will for next year...) and most riders seemed to choose to follow it, thus staying out on their bikes for as long as possible. I was glad of this because, after all, this was the last official run of the NBS 'season'. Off we went, heading for the Malvern. I really enjoyed riding over Castlemorton Common, which I think is one of the most scenic parts of the route – I suppose it's the feeling of 'space' - and I stopped for a while to get some photos for Julian. I think I'd put myself right to the back of the 'pack' (can't help thinking in racing terms!) so I set about catching up a bit. I don't think I ever really did, but I always like riding alone anyway. So, on through Eastnor and Ledbury we went, enjoying the lanes towards Suckley, then having turned off the Worcester road towards Martley, it was up Ankerdine Hill. Now, the previous week I had checked the route on my CCM and fairly flew up the hill in a most exhilarating way. This time though, the Sunbeam made more 'stately' progress, but was just as enjoyable.

Around Martley the choices of route home must have meant that very few riders were together by this time. Certainly, I saw nobody else until I caught sight of Julian on his very smart AJS and we stopped for a moment for me to hand over his camera, containing the snaps that I had taken during the day. By the time I arrived home (having only had to change a plug once all day – well done Sunbeam!) I had covered about 120 miles. I hope that everyone who took part enjoyed the day as much as I did!

*Andy*



## Cheque Presentation to Sandwell Hospital

Those who ride regularly with this section will know that we invite everyone who signs on for a Run to make a donation (usually £1) to a chosen charity. Each year we change the charity on which we focus and we began a couple of years ago with a collection for the Motor Neurone Society. This year we have been collecting for the County Air Ambulance, but last year (2006) 'our' charity was the Charitable Trust that supports the Courtyard Centre at Sandwell General. The Courtyard Centre offers a range of help and support to people diagnosed with cancer, as well as their families. Between December 2004 and about June 2005 my wife, Ruth, received some wonderful help for this very reason. The staff there – all volunteers – helped Ruth to feel normal and 'human' again, after serious surgery and in the midst of horrible drug-treatment. This charity was obviously very dear to me!

So it was that three of us from the North Birmingham Section (Andy Briggs, Trevor Bull and Maurice Trupp) along with our Sunbeam, Triumph and Scott respectively, arrived at Sandwell General Hospital on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November, to meet the Manager of the Trust Mrs Lyn Spiers. I handed over a cheque for £350 on behalf of the North Birmingham Section of the VMCC, which was much appreciated. Thank you to all who contributed to this and every charity collection.



Andy

## Small Ads Section

Please send your requests for this section to 01384-294666 Between 6.00-9.00pm

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For anyone who may have missed the announcement at last month's club night, the website has now been updated and is well worth a look over the coming winter months.

[www.vmcc-nbs.co.uk](http://www.vmcc-nbs.co.uk)

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|               | CLUB NIGHTS           |
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| NOVEMBER 28th | Bring and Buy evening |
| DECEMBER 26th | No Meeting            |

CLUB RUNS

| DATE  | RUN | ORGANISER | Tel No |
|---|-----|-----------|--------|
| <b>2008</b><br>New Year's Day Run will start and finish at the Hollybush Inn Ebstree Road, near Seisdon, 10.30 start, coffee available, and plenty of parking room if anyone wants to bring their machine on a trailer.<br>Details from Josie on 01902-607293 |     |           |        |
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