

DAM busters, 18 Sep 05

... a bit like the Cannonball run towards the end!

Graham Bailey, Ride-out Leader

Duration: 8.30am – 7.30pm, weather: Biking Paradise, mileage: approx 300.

Pilot	Bike
"Fast" Sal (Leader)	GS650
Brian Charlton (sweep)	Black Thing (KTM 950)
Tim/Sandie Cutmore	R1150RT
Steve Wood	GSX750F (with indicators p.s. I won't tell!)
Steve Reeves	PAN
Narjas Mehdi	VFR800
Richard Atkins	VFR750
Alastair Lord	VFR750
Mike Barrett	FJR1300
Lawrence Morgan	Transalp
"Me" Graham Bailey (colliel)	GS of course!

8.30am with 300 miles on the horizon, and the gathered throng are still as bubbly as Marilyn Monroe with a glass of Champagne. (Being young I've only heard of her of course!!)

With Sal up front and Father Charlton bringing up the rear, we all escape from BEW car park with amazing ease (don't we Tim!) which allowed us to scramble up the hill for Nailsworth on our journey towards Beckington our first leg stop just south east of Bath.



We blockade Exmoor: too good to share

(First time I've had a cuppa hot chocolate and a Topic for brekky in a long time, nice though, especially dipped, eh... Di!)

The drop off system was working well as we continued on our journey through Glastonbury, Taunton, Wiveliscombe and Tiverton before arriving at our lunch stop The Exeter Inn, and a rapturous

welcome from the 19 DAM busters all eager to greet old friends or make new ones.

After a wonderful carvery lunch, Donald 'n Daisy (you need to be there to get this one!) led us all on a scenery 'over load' ride, which saw us take in fantastic panoramic views



One DAM fine group, eh SAM?

over Exmoor, with a welcome return to The valley of the Rocks at Lynton/Lynmouth for a group hug !

From here on I can only guess at the route we took towards our next break, which was to be the cream tea stop near Taunton, as the level of enjoyment coupled with the pace, brought an all too familiar blur to the passing scenery as we definitely made 'progress' thanks to Donald up front, not that I ever saw him !!

[You can replicate this route – see how on p.19. This point is "Wow 5" on the map – Ed]

With cholesterol levels all topped up and farewells said, Sal led us all

contentedly out of the car park for the last and final leg home via the cold in character, but most efficient M5. (Narjas was reputed to say that it was nice to ride such wide 'black top' after so many tall hedges and blind bends!!)

Finally, thanks to:-

Sal: organising the reunion and for not getting us lost. (wot, no U-turns? Pah...!!)

Brian: keeping us all together, and for seeing each and every one of us off home!

Narjas: fantastic effort from an individual with limited 'flying' time.

Steve Wood: always good company, and showed great promise as my 'next' associate.

Steve Reeves: quality rider adding proficiency to the ride out.

Richard: steep learning curve, managed nicely.



SAMs, DAMs, bikes, hills and everything

Tim: 'man on a mission' when it comes to progress, nice to see, well done Tim.

Sandie: great company and always contributes.

Lawrence: you really started to surprise a few of us on the Trans, well done!

Mike: good to see you on the ride out Mike, solid rider with road presence!

Alastair: great easy company, and fun in the bends, especially whilst adjusting the Sat Nav! ***[Dutifully recording "Wow 5" for our loyal and deserving readership! - Ed]***

Last and finally!! With very few minor exceptions, I would like to thank everyone for flying the club's flag this weekend, by displaying a good solid ride with no heroics. Well Done you lot, the pleasure was nearly all mine.

(p.s. If Donald 'n Daisy get to read this, my personal thanks to you both for all of your organisational efforts in making this a great club day of memories, "well..... Daisy at least"!).



More from the red kites

Stop-press! This pic just in from the Red Kites run on 17 July 05.



Don't put your fingers in the cage

DAM Busters revisited, 18 Sep 2005

Sal Charlton

From over the misty Cotswolds cold
Through Stroud, Nailsworth &
Sodbury Old
They made their way, at break of day,
"SAM-RIDERS" - daring, daunting,
bold.

Bradford-on-Avon saw them pass
With courtesy and not too fast
Took turns to stay, To mark the way,
With Brian, sweeping, coming last.

Near Somerset the sun shone bright,
They stopped for coffee - what delight
For everyone, To chat in sun,
The bikes – a splendid gleaming
sight.

Then on, it's Frome they're heading
for
And Shepton Mallet some miles more
Mendips flowing, distance growing,
Under Glastonbury's Tor.

Skip past Taunton, heading west
Bends become more of a test
Left and right, both fast and tight,
The road is empty – just the best.

More cloudy now this Devon sky
Who's complaining? Roads are dry
Its afternoon, Bampton comes soon,
The lunchtime stop is just nearby.

DAM riders' bikes are everywhere
SAM riders pick their place with care
Both groups well met, then lunch they
get,

The carvery's beyond compare.

Now John's in front to lead the way
All will enjoy next part of day
A well-planned ride, & superb guide,
Bike after bike sets off to play.



*DAM riders so skilled they can eat
cream tea with eyes closed, like this*

Through wooded valleys dark & deep
On moss and gravel wisely creep
Then climbing high, to touch the sky
The bends are tight, the hills are
steep.

Then out across the endless moor
What wild and lovely sights they saw
Ahead looks fine, with bikes in line
A memory to take and store.

They reach the coast and turn until
They're heading east across the hill
And down below, as on they flow
The silver sea gleams calm and still.

Change gear, hook back, they leave
the sea

And inland turn behind JT
The lanes sink low, and hedges grow
As on they wind past field and tree.



Here's the route over Exmoor...

Slight diversion - leader gone?
Bike behind not following on??
Soon sorted out, without a doubt
He always knows the way does John!

We know they'd ride until they drop
But from this point it's just a hop
To welcome grub, at village pub,
Where cream tea brings them to a
stop.

So, finally goodbyes are said
SAM riders rested and well fed
Turn north once more, M5 for sure
Past Taunton they are once more led.

As planned, SAM riders scatter wide
In ones and twos and threes they ride
On motorway, at end of day,
No need out front to mark and guide.

.....

I've left them all, I'm on my own
Due west and into Wales I've flown

But memory strong, will linger long
Of roads we shared and friendships
grown.

Brian sweeping at the back
Graham moving through the pack
And in between, a brilliant team
Dropping off to mark our track.

And as I drift off into sleep
Lights of friends on bikes still peep
In my mirrors.... welcome shivers
Special memories to keep.

*My thanks to all who came out on the
SAM-DAM run this September and
made it such a good day! ♦*