

Abergavenny Bus Stop, 2 Oct 2005

Graham Bailey, Ride Leader

Weather: cool but dry and entertaining, duration 1000 – 1430 approx, distance 115 miles approx (mostly intended).

Pilot	Bike
Steve Wood	GSX750F
Bernie Wood	GPZ500S
Brian Charlton	KTM 950
Sally Charlton	650GS
Terry Freeman	1200 Bandit
Mike Barrett	FJR1300
Dave Preest	850 Guzzi
Tim Cutmore	R1150RT
Lawrence Morgan	Transalp
Eric Bush	R1100RT
Graham Bailey	1200GS

'10 lovely riders', (well 8 actually, 2 were skulking in the woods somewhere waiting to surprise us on route) and myself of course!, all bright 'n bushy tailed and eager to cover 'black top'.

And this is where it went slightly wrong at the outset, the planning stage! Read on.....

You see, I had inadvertently revealed my intended route to 'fast Sal' the evening before, only to be persuaded on the morning by Dave 'Scout' Preest to take a more entertaining and alternative route! (Wise choice)

This resulted in the surprise 'photo' ambush intended by the Charltons en-route, becoming nothing more than a lonely and boring roadside

vigil, (for them) and an exchange of rare expletives when we all eventually met up at Aber, some 90 minutes later. (Well how was I supposed to know!! I don't have crystal balls you know! Stop it Brian!)

Nevertheless, our alternative route there turned out to be just as Dave had promised, invigorating, scenic and very demanding at times, as we left Chepstow on the B4235 towards Mynydd Bach, Llangwn, Usk, and Llanover before eventually swooping into Aber like a 'tight' squadron of 'top guns' dropping below the hard deck for a radar-evading landing. (good this innit!)

With Brian and Sal now part of the flight, we departed Aber after a much

needed 'bacon buttie' and coffee, via the ever entertaining and technical route through Skenfrith, towards Ross and eventually Gloucester. At this juncture, our inevitable separation always take place like a bag of spilt Maltesers!(if you know what I mean!)

Abergavenny never fails to provide a level of satisfaction, and today, with the present company (with the exception of Brian of course!) the ride out turned out to be yet another worthwhile occasion 'not to be missed'.

My sincere thanks go to everyone that made the effort to attend, with a final word going out to:



All together again

Bernie for taking part and showing great promise for the future (honest!).

Tim your level of 'progressive riding' over Skenfrith has amazed me, well done.

Lawrence again you take your riding level up a peg on every occasion, nice one mate, keep it up.

Dave is always there to quietly put me right when I stray from the straight and narrow!

Mike for creating road presence far and above my own. (Stop it!)

Terry for bringing money with him this time!!

Steve is always there doing it right after listening once, and once only.

Eric for entertainment, no matter what, you always make a difference to the ride out Eric.

Brian you ride a KTM!, what can I say, get a lifeBri!

Sal is dynamite on wheels, never in need of nitro!!

That's it for now folks, if your

name's not up there, it means you've just missed out on a real 'roller coaster'.

So if you want to be written about, ridiculed in print, or just happy to practise u-turns behind me!, then be there next time! (go on.....you know you want to!)

'Follow if you dare, pass if you can'. ♦