

# Craven Arms, 13 November 2005

## Graham Bailey, Ride Leader

Weather: Absolutely Fab, distance 150 miles approx, duration 1000 – 1530.

Pilot	Bike
Graham Bailey	1200GS
Budge/Di	Bird
Tim Cutmore	R1150RT
Steve Mason	GSX750F
Geoff Pollard	600 Hornet
Pat Lush	CBF600
Nick/Jazz	FJR1300
Dave Howell	SV1000
Alastair Lord	VFR750
James Coombs	F650
Tom/Lesley-Ann Stevens	Bird
Nick Twissell	Varadero
John Jacobs	FJR1300
Steve Roberts	PAN
Ian Spring	FJR1300
Sal Charlton	650GS
Brain Charlton, Mike Donovan	KTM Adventure
Dave Preest	1000GS

'Bl\*\*dy hell', was my first thought as I pulled into the car park at BEW having glanced at that lot listed. My second was 'and I've only booked a table for 10' at our intended breakfast/dinner stop at the above.

As I 'powered down' and removed helmet 'n plugs my mind was in overdrive, 'but this is November' how can there be such commitment at this time of year! More's the point, where do I put the rest whilst the first 8 and



Ready for the off

Budge/Di are tucking into their freshly cooked breakfasts!!

In true Chairmanship style and without further ado, I was on the 'dog n bone' to the café with the latest numbers and apologies to boot, as I could only grimace whilst listening to the words of reflected disbelief at the other end of the phone, yet problem solved!!

After a 'quick' good morning and a briefing that lasted until 10.20am! I eventually led the merry throng away from BEW happy in the knowledge that at least no one was going to get left behind on this ride out, as I figured that we've probably got enough in attendance to mark every turn off from BEW to Craven without anyone having to mark twice!

Gloucester to Wainlodes allowed us to pick up Geoff as we swooped down to almost river level as we glided alongside the already swollen

banks of the Severn. Tirley made way for a cross country route taking in Pendock, Ledbury, Bromyard, and Tenbury Wells before we eventually stumbled (all planned you know) across the A49 just south of Ludlow.

With 12.30pm approaching, and a sense of hunger within the ranks of 23, 'yes 23'!! Craven Arms came into view with the timing of a well rehearsed military operation! And a shout from one or two of 'about time too' (wasn't Budge or Di, they were already inside!)

With the usual hustle and bustle associated with

any large bunch of kids, we all eventually settled into the warmth of Station Café. There was a level of contentment as the first tranche of freshly cooked breakfasts began to arrive upon the tables 'hooray'!

1.15pm approx, and the certainty of a dwindling sun coupled with a promise of lower temperatures to follow, gave



Tired James rests bonce on fence post

us all the inspiration to about-turn and head off in the general direction of good old Glos. This time following the A49 towards the tea room at Brockington Golf Club on the A417 for a pot of Earl Grey, and a wedge (golfing term!) of coffee 'n walnut cake (sorry Heather!).

Pat yourself on the back you lot, you made it happen! (p.s my humble apologies to 'Gadge', for my miserable attempt at being his waitress!!) **[I told him I loathe baked beans. So what'd he ordered me?! Pah! – Ed] ♦**

After a reluctant group hug shot (eh... Di!) in the last of the afternoon sun, courtesy of snapper Steve Mason, who has yet to master the time delay facility on his super duper



*Jas shovels it in, Nick knows to stay clear*

mega pixel thingy (see group shot with Steve's rear end effort!). **[On website – Ed]** We all set off once again on the last and final stage of this very memorable and special November 13th, a day never to return.

The weather, company and atmosphere were fantastic, ride outs like these really don't get much better (except for temperature perhaps!) and my heartfelt condolences go out to all that failed to be there, it certainly was an occasion.