

Acorns Run, 16 April 2006

Budge & Di

Pilots & pillions

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Graham & Matt

John Jacobs

Lloyd Fennick

John Hartley

Simon Forryan

Nick & Jasmine

Mike & Paula

Andy Downs

Pat Lush

Narjas & Sophie Blume

Bob & Pat Williams

Steve & Zoe Mason

Tim Rodway

Terry Freeman

Tim & Sandy Cutmore

Mike Barrett

Steve & Carolyn Allen

08:45, Sunday 16th April, Birds Eye Walls Social Club car park. Weather dry and reasonably warm, (surely this won't last? it's bound to be raining in Birmingham). This was where the majority of this year's Easter Egg run turnout assembled ready for the short first leg through to the Acorns Shop on Lower High Street in Cheltenham.

09:00, Acorns Shop, and more keep arriving, could we beat the record?

Sadly not, but it was still a fantastic turnout considering it was Easter Sunday.

Many thanks to one and all who came along.

It was great to see so many new faces; you



Andy and Narjas are... are... what?

all know who you are so I won't list you all individually here.

After the obligatory briefing we were on our way, (more or less on time) to travel a well tried and tested route, (I'll see if I can come up with something different for next year – promise).

Our arrival at Selly Oak was bang on time, (that makes a change, I hear you all cry), and it was still dry – something has got to go wrong! Panniers, tank bags, rucksacks and any other item that had been used to

carry the masses of eggs were “half” emptied and deposited on not one but two tables, such was the quantity. Thanks must be said at this point to Mark Chapman and Martin Clarke, who were not able to participate in the run, but made sure that they added to the chocolate mountain.



All kids love bikes!

As usual we were made to feel very welcome with tea, coffee and biscuits being just what the doctor ordered at this point, (did you all manage to get to the biscuits before Graham? Some of us only just made it). The children who were there on the day certainly enjoyed looking around the bikes, (must have ignored the BMWs), as the pictures prove. A guided tour of the hospice was also laid on enabling an understanding of the work the staff do in looking after the children and making this a home from home for them. The hour we were there passed very quickly and it was once again time for us to hit the road on the next leg of the journey. Graham

was getting hungry so a food stop was required.

The staff at the Little Thief didn't do a bad job in getting our meals to us fairly quickly considering that they had not been given any prior notice of us all descending on them for lunch. This is of course unless you are Nick and Jasmine, their food took quite a bit longer to get to them, I hope it was worth waiting for you two?

Suitably refreshed, we stepped outside to find that it was beginning to rain. The heavens hadn't let us down after all, but thankfully it was only a light shower, (for those of you who haven't a clue what I'm on about, it



Acorns hospices: great outside too

always rains at some point on this run). With that out of the way, we set off for our final stop of the day at the new hospice in Worcester. Again we arrived on time (wonders will never cease) to be greeted by more smiling faces, tea, coffee and cake this time. The remainder of the eggs were



Cracking shot of Jasmine at BEWSC! See p.13 for censorship rationale

loaded onto a trolley and wheeled inside. I think you all deserve a pat on the back for your splendid efforts as we must have distributed 50 to 60 eggs at each hospice.



SAM always causes trouble in car parks

Well all good things must come to an end, so it was finally time to make our homeward journeys. Di & I would like to thank all of you who took part in either half or the entire run, and let's hope we can do it again next year.

Budge & Di ☺



Nigel Murray demonstrates Look Lean Roll techniques – see p.10

IAM driver challenge day

The South West Region of the IAM is holding a Driver Challenge Day between 10.00 and 16.00 on Saturday 1st July at RAF Colerne [between Bath and Chippenham].

This is a conjoint exercise between Bath, Bristol, Cirencester and Melksham groups and there will be a good number of interactive events, where members of the public can 'take on' various driving challenges such as driving an articulated lorry, a bandy bus, fire engine, mini-motorbikes etc. There will also be manoeuvring tests, estimated speed etc, as well as displays from Highways Agency, Safety Camera Partnership[s], Police Road Safety etc.

The motorcycle section of Bath/Bristol IAM are planning an interactive demo of safe braking from high speeds and exercises for riders on their own bikes.

It seems that it may be an excuse for a ride out and beats being in Tesco's if the weather is good. The event is free. **[You don't need to be an IAM Member; why not encourage family and friends along? – Ed]** Contact nigel.murray@gloucestershire.gov.uk (01452 426 444) for more details. ◆