

# SAMmers and DAMmers, 4 June

## Graham Bailey

Meeting place - Gordano services 10.00am. Destination – Kearne Bridge ‘The Charltons Chateau’. Mileage – approx 280 miles (via Wales). Duration – 8.30am – 6.30pm. Weather – spot on.....for most of it!

### SAMmers

Graham Bailey  
Budge/Di  
Dave Preest (Leader)  
Nick Twissell  
John Deal  
Ian Harrison  
Dave/Lorraine  
Bill Carter  
Ashley/Jennifer  
Brian/Sal  
Narjas/young Dylan  
Eric/Gill

### DAMmers

Nick/Linda  
Georgina/Barry  
Jimbo  
Colin  
Gill/Chris  
Glyn  
Ralph  
Ralph no 2  
Helen/John (Helen sweep)  
John  
Daryl  
Darren

‘Well’, the numbers say it all really, and this time the ‘Sammers’ just pipped the ‘Dammers’ on numbers, and that is...a first!! Well done everyone.

With all the greetings dispensed with, Dave led us out of the services just like the ‘Pied Piper’ with Helen ‘n’ Daisy bringing up the rear all nice and tidy like.(or so we thought...read on!)



*DAMmer faints: Wales so beautiful*

‘Junction 25’! That’s all I asked them to remember!, and yes I was one of the three markers still marking some 15 minutes later and wondering if I

should be here at all!!!, ‘Hooray’ Daisy came into view with the news that one black sheep had strayed causing the delay, and was intent on straying even further, oh well, \*#\*~ happens.

And it happened again!! This time yours truly mistook a nearside indicator of one of the few

remaining markers (everyone else thought \*\*\* it) on a roundabout as the direction to take...wrong! This lost and confused marker unwittingly directed yours truly by mistake!! Towards a solitary ride to Abergavenny which was to be our GROUP! Coffee stop!

Ah well, we are all together once more, for the time being! After all, what else could go wrong, eh? Well, I'm stood in long grass with my arm out on a slip road... Could someone think I'm

just taking a leak, three minutes from our last coffee stop? "Is there really a God?" I ask myself! And the said individual motored straight on past me beyond my sighting.

Now don't get the wrong idea here, we all had a fabulous time, it's just that the term 'group ride' just doesn't seem appropriate somehow!

As the day wore on, Dave done us proud once again by leading us through mountainous routes very rarely taken by modes of wheeled motion, which provided us with a very privileged view of nature itself and a distinct feeling of being in the wilds (must be the presence of them Dammers!).

All too quickly our brush with nature had come to a temporary end as we neared our destination, Kearne Bridge. At this point we all descended upon the Charlton's Chateau like a pack of marauding Indians, guided by the smell of a raging BBQ, and the promise of a burnt banger or two!



*A fine bunch indeed*

Brian, on the range, was already dappled in hot oil spats (had he been merely standing too close to his KTM I wonder?). And with Sal rushing around in a very 'progressive' manner, it was left

to both Ashley and Jennifer to keep a sort of calm amongst the mayhem as the numerous bikes all jostled around for a good place to park...away from the straying flames of the BBQ which appeared to be gently licking the balustrade of the decking!

'It was fab', real beef burgers, sausages of every flavour and wrapped in Sal's Buns! [**Ooooh, errrr, tasty! – Ed**] Mmmmm... Plus a lavish supporting salad, and even cold cans of soft drinks bobbing away in a great barrel of cool water as if fighting for attention over the copious quantities of tea and coffee.

For afters came another difficult choice from a vast number of home

made cakes provided mainly by Helen, all laid out on the dining room table, each and every one looking too good to cut and sumptuous enough to warrant a health warning! But none of us cared...this was a feast.



*SAM attracts **much** younger members!*

With all fed and watered and a new calm set in, ...the crunch came, and I mean a crunch, as a 4 week old Pan made its impression upon the by now hot soft 'n' sinking tarmac as it toppled over unceremoniously on to its side like an elephant wallowing in a mud splash (just sniffing the gleaming paint work of Dave/Lorraine's CBR 600 phew!).

Tears were held back in a manly fashion as the great beast was righted, and the damage surveyed. Not bad for such a crunch, albeit inwardly crucifying the once proud owner stood trembling next to me (my sincere commiserations).

Remaining upbeat, we completed the day by collecting a generous sum of £100.00 towards the Acorns Trust,

which was emotionally received by both Budge/Di on Acorns behalf and as ever always grateful.

Our final thanks must go initially to Dave for such a wonderful glimpse of raw Wales, always delivers the goods, and to both Brain and Sally for their generosity in providing the sumptuous BBQ at their very own cost, as means of their contribution towards the Easter egg run and Acorns, well done and thank you both very very much indeed.

To our new (and old, sorry John!) friends at DAM, see you all soon in Sept/Oct, and to Helen, the event simply wouldn't have the 'bite' (geddit!) without you, my lovely...!

Graham Bailey (riding with safety but with spirit... and no back markers!) ♦



*KTMs are for mugs*