

Evening Run to Avebury, 21 June

Budge

19:00 till 22:45ish. (Hhmm bit later than planned)

Pilots & pillions

Budge	Blackbird
Capt Searchlight (aka Graham Bailey)	R1200GS
Dave & Lorraine	CBR600
Vic Martyn	1200LT
Graham Owen	R1200 Adventurer
Steve & Marion	Pan
Steve Allen	ZRX1200
Tim Rodway	Fazer thou
Dave Jarvis	Triumph 955i ache inducer
Mike Barrett	FJR1300
Steve Mason	GSX750FNames

Midsummer's day and our first evening ride out of 2006, although I have to admit that I thought it was going to be another one of Budge's specials, i.e. no-one turn up. I started getting a little anxious when 19:30pm came and went knowing that everyone was supposed to be leaving BEW at just after 19:00 for a 'quick blast' down the motorway to meet up with me off junction 13. Still I needn't have worried as at about 19:35ish, Capt Searchlight came into view with everyone in tow. (Why Capt Searchlight? Well apparently Graham's GS had blown its headlight bulb just as he left home, wonder if he carried out his daily checks? - and all he had was main beam, imagine a lighthouse on two wheels and that was our Capt).

Our route took us via Wooton under Edge, Wickwar, and Old Sodbury to the Cross Hands Hotel where the A46 crosses the A432. This is where we picked up Dave & Lorraine who had very patiently been waiting for us in the car park. (Must get your mobile number Dave, I could have at least warned you that we were going to be a little late). Still, not to worry. Now with everyone present and correct it was ever onwards via Acton Turnville, Castle Coombe (where we came across a 5 mile stretch where the road surface had just been relaid and covered with about 4 inches of loose gravel - arrgh, anyone who had any fears about riding on this stuff certainly won't from now on).

We eventually arrived at Avebury at about 20:55, most of us found a place

in the pub car park whilst the rest parked a little further down the road, (wanted to have a stone hugging session without the rest of us seeing if the truth be known I reckon).

Refreshments were taken, and I think the one person who enjoyed the stop the most was Dave Jarvis on the Triumph. He is the only person I have ever heard say that he wanted to be dropped off at every junction so that he could have a stretch. Still, you've done the right thing now and got

yourself a real bike, (another Blackbird in the club – nice one).

21:30 and time to make tracks for home. This took us via Wooton Bassett, Callow Hill and Brinkworth to the A429. Here some of us picked up the B4014 toward Nailsworth via Tetbury (where we dropped Dave and Lorraine off) and Avening. The

majority stayed on the A429 and made their way home from there, (Graham B only took this route so that he could seriously offend even more car drivers). Thanks to one and

all for participating in the ride, especially, Dave (I ache everywhere) Jarvis, Graham Owen (on the Beemer with both lights working) and Marion on the back of Steve. It was great to see you all.

At this point I must apologise for the route being a little long winded, (I had it fixed in

my head that it was an 18:00 kick off and so planned the route accordingly). This is why the finish was later than planned, hopefully you enjoyed it though.

Capt Rigar ♦



Graham's rat bike: drops even more oil than GS