

SAM/DAM weekend, 29 Sep-1 Oct

Graham Bailey

Duration: Friday to Sunday (obvious really!). Weather: we had it all from sunshine to flash floods and lightning, to rainbows and drying winds. Mileage: 500 approx. Grin factor: 10.

Pilots & pillions

'Fast Sal' (leader)	GS650 (nitro fuelled)
Budge/Di	Bird
Dave Preest	TDM900
Mike Barratt	FJR1300
Nick Twissell	Varadero
Nick/Jaz Ellicott	FJR1300
Pete/Jenny Craddock	Gold Thingy
Eric/Gill Bush	R1100RT
Graham Bailey	R1200GS
Tom/Leslie Anne	Bird
Dave/Lorraine	CBR600
Steve/Marion	Pan
Simon/Carol	FJR1200
Mark/Tracy	Sprint
Godfrey/Gill	VFR800
Narjas	VFR800
Alastair/Caitlin	VFR750
Brian Charlton (sweep)	KTM950

Friday

'Phew' it's taken me 10 minutes just to list the participants, now that's what I call a well subscribed 'ride out', numbers make it happen and create success, well done you lot keep it coming.

With traffic halted by Budge/Brian at BEW, we all set off in an unusual tight formation (thanks Budge/Bri) heading south/east towards our 'full

English' breakfast stop at Bradford On Avon, and yep, it didn't disappoint.

Forty lovely rural miles later, and just in the nick of time as the heavens decided to open, The Green Man at Kings Stag near Sherborne came into sight, which was our intended lunchtime stop, and a very warm and welcome pub it is too.

Eventually after 148 wonderfully undulating and absorbing miles,



Mark pays bear too much attention

Helen/John's home at Budleigh Salterton came into view, which meant only one thing, yep you guessed it, fresh home baked cakes and scones literally bathed in jam and cream supported by as much hot tea and coffee as you could drink!! (Good this innit!)

With hotels found, and bikes stored for the evening, Exmouth's sea front and hospitality brought about a most satisfying closure to the day.

Saturday

With yet another full breakfast dispatched (this report is beginning to sound like a weight watcher's dream weekend!) and most eager for the day, 10:30 saw Helen/John, Lyn and Tommy arrive with an invitation to 'show us their back yard'.

What a wonderful part of the country this really is, are the DAMmers lucky or what!! Such rare rural bliss and tranquillity up on the moors, seemed to spill over into the stream lined sleepy villages we visited, accessed only by narrow canopied covered lanes, that appeared to be designed solely to provide endless hours of entertainment for the likes of ourselves, as we coursed our way enjoying every single mile.

(My personal thanks to John for all his efforts at providing us with a class one ride. And if you want a ride better than Alton Towers' finest, then slip into the jet wash directly behind John, and enjoy! Following in his pace is sheer joy)



Narjas and Caitlin: hill figure shock

Back at the hotels suitably rested and freshly showered, we all settled back into the evening meal at a local sea front restaurant The Grove, for the traditional thanks giving, and of

course further consumption of local brew straight from the cask.

Young Sal had thoughtfully organized a wonderful bouquet of flowers for Helen, with John receiving a Triumph plaque for the garage as a token of our appreciation and thanks for their immense hospitality.



Rain stops momentarily

Both Sal and myself duly received items to treasure in recognition of our part played, although how and what I received, I feel should remain with limited 'exposure' if you know what I mean!!! (If you had been there it would all make sense!) **[See vile pics on the website – Ed]**

'Newlyweds' Nick and Jaz, were also the recipients of the warmth and feeling of both clubs, with the impromptu presentation of one of Helen's delicious home baked chocolate cakes (prompted by Budge) in further celebration of their most recent acknowledgement of each others undying love and devotion. (eer, I should be a writer

with all this lovely stuff coming out!!) **[No chance – Ed]**

Sunday

10:00 and our intention is to join in on a DAM ride out, but the weather's coming at us with full force, and then some!! Still, it can't go on can it! Oh yes it can, thunder, lightning, flash floods (ever surfed on a bike!) all in a day's riding for us DAM/SAMmers. **[Special award to Godfrey for avoiding a car that decided it would be safer to run him down than drive through standing water – Ed]**

Rising above the weather we crossed the moors arriving at Lynton to be bathed in sunshine and it felt great. In fact, the more miles we rode, the better the day became. We followed the coast line for some time before heading back across the moors towards civilization.



Jas on hand to give Nick a tug

Sadly as always, the point of the group departure and farewells was soon upon us at Bridgewater, and the deed was done for another year.

Our time spent was invaluable, such merriment, good spirits and fine riding would remain a warm memory for a very long time to come, yet hopefully making space for future ride outs of comparable quality not yet planned.

Just like the ride out, so too must this report come to a close (Gadge our editor's pushing!!) so a word of grateful thanks for all that contributed to a fantastic weekend, with the final worthy praise going to our 'young Sal' for her insatiable enthusiasm fuelling all of her concealed efforts behind the scenes, that go some way to ensuring a level of success to this event for all to enjoy. 'Nice one Sal' ♦

SAM DAM dinner rhyme

Sal Charlton

So south they cam SAM riders all
Bikes fat and thin and short and tall
One-up, two-up and a three -
There's Mark and Trace and Bear you see!

The clouds hung low the landscape grey
And sadly rain damped down our way
But coffee stop was warm and dry
Steve fed the ducks as they swam by
And faced by lock gates half undone?
No probs, they're opened by Steve's bum.

On though wet we duly rode
Many slippery tales were told
Around some bends there's mud and muck
But all survive. Great skill? Good luck?!

Still sun at last, the day's now fine
At John and Helen's we're on time
For cakes and scones in quantity
Washed down with welcome mugs of tea.

Then Exmouth sea front, most were there
To share a drink and tales compare
Which finished off a lovely day
With biking friends let out to play!

Saturday – we follow John
The length of Devon we've all gone
Sunshine lit the views and road
As many miles and smiles unfold.
Helen followed everyone
And loved to judge the best male bum.

Lunch at Torrington was good
And then the tea stop ... well, the food
Was "hearty" – that we knew for sure
One pudding fed all 7 and more.

It really was the greatest ride
Showing Devon off with pride
And still tomorrow... more to come...
The weekend's really proving fun.

So now let's finish silly rhymes
In just a couple of extra lines
Saying "Thanks" to all who came this time
To "SAM" and "DAM" and friends just fine! ♦