

April Journal

Here I am fitting this in between my return from The Rhino, via Co.Kerry and The Mini Thatch and taking Brenda away for a posh (Tesco Token) weekend. That should restore some brownie points. (er, they were her tokens though)

Not a lot to report as my run on 5th and the Coopers run were snowed off and I missed the Roebuck due to a NC meeting at Twycross.

The Clubnight Guest speaker turned up and waffled on about club business from the previous weekends National Committee meeting and other related bike topics, actually most of the members did the talking, I only threw them the topics and they chewed them over and spat them out. (Trying to find a Speaker for clubnight is very hard, so any offers will be welcome.)

I gather from the names given me by Paula and Debbie for points to Club-persons of the year the Borders and Sunday lunchtime meets were well attended allowing for the weather, which can only get better.

We had seven from our section at The Rhino and we thank Rees, his good lady and their team for the effort in organising and putting up the Hospitality Tent and supplying breakfast bacon rolls and hot drinks. We had a good ride up, dry until we were nearly there. It stopped raining after we got our tents up and only rained again when we could sit inside and look out whilst listening to it pattering on the tent. Although the Sunday morning the tents were iced up it actually seemed quite mild. We are ruffie tuffie bikers after all. (Although I did hear some whimpering about 4am as bladders filled to venting point.)

The Saracens Head was up and running again this year so became the focal point for live music on both Friday and Saturday nights, enjoyed by all and good to meet some old friends.

Friday we enjoyed the steam train to Port Madog and Saturday whilst it remained dry, Andy Warwick led us to a nice little cafe near Bala. Thankfully the snow only remained on the high ground and the hailstones Sunday morning stopped as I was leaving for Holyhead and the ferry to Dublin. (Barry, having waited for his tent to be nearly dry then had it hailed on. There`s a moral there somewhere.)

Via a nice bit of self catering near Dingle Co.Kerry the R80GS and I arrived at Curracloe Co.Wexford for the Mini Thatch, organised by the Irish Section. I thank them for a well organised weekend, the holiday bungalows had all we needed and the food, open fire and Guinness was well enjoyed. We enjoyed an excellent ride to Mount Leinster, New Ross and the Hook lighthouse. With 50-60 members attending this was a successful rally. I gratefully received furthest travelled, "Andy Baynes memorial" trophy.

Coming up in April are two runs (The April Fool (me) Tim around Glyndbourne and Kevin's High Tea run, "we" also plan to camp at the AGM in Scotland.

For the AGM I plan to leave Thurrock services at 7am and use motorways.

We wish all the best to Sue Burton who is resolutely fighting her illness with support from John and their family, hence Johns apologies for no run from Oirschot.

May the roads dry and the wind be behind us. Shaun.