

2009 Bert Bailey Memorial Veterans' 100.

On Sunday 5th July, 83 of the 95 people who entered the ride departed from Kinnerton Scout HQ in lovely weather, which was a marked contrast from last year's start. The Club's President, Mike Cross, dressed in his official finery sent the riders off in eight groups at ten-minute intervals commencing at 0800hrs.

The route was much the same as usual, except that there was the addition of a trip round Rednal Airfield, a WW2 Spitfire training 'drome. The main reason for this was to ensure that the group leaders had to stay awake, rather than ride on autopilot! Whilst the weather became a bit problematic at times for some of the groups, all arrived back in the early evening claiming to have had a most enjoyable day. The day's events were recorded for posterity - to the consternation of some - by our energetic Hon. Secretary, who seemed to pop up with her camera at the most inopportune moments; there is now incontrovertible evidence that some males of the species work at the kitchen sink; others may be forced to follow suit!

By all accounts the food provided by our usual caterers, Olive Evans and Mark Watson, was of the usual high standard, and this is always a welcome fillip to jaded riders.

We should not forget that the success of the event depends largely on the efforts of the many volunteers who do such mundane jobs as overseeing the car parking, dishing up refreshments and signing riders in and out. None of these jobs are in themselves large ones, but in total they all make the event go smoothly, ensuring that the riders have an excellent day out. As well as expressions of thanks from many riders on their return, I received several phone calls and emails stating their authors' appreciation of the efforts of the volunteers and the Group Leaders, and asking that their contribution to the event be acknowledged.

In recent years the ambience and ethos of this, the flagship event in our calendar, has not been what many of us consider it should be, but I am greatly heartened to hear from several sources that there was a better atmosphere this year; long may that continue.

David Ackerley - Organiser