

**RIDEOUT REPORT - Greenan Farm, Museum & Maze, Wicklow
2012**

15th July

Looking out at the pelting rain this miserable Monday morning, it just goes to show that we really should take advantage of any dry day we get to go for a rideout. Sunday had been forecast to be dry and sunny with the prospect of the odd shower mainly in the south. So a spin to Greenan Farm, Museum and Maze near Rathdrum was planned. Unfortunately, a good few of the "usual suspects" couldn't make it - like Andy & Andrea, Dermot & Claire, Gary, JR and Sam. Poor Gavin is still having bike trouble. Poor Jason had family/work commitments. Poor Rob couldn't escape. Poor Mick couldn't make his mind up. And poor, poor Marco was sunning himself on a beach in Italy!!! Still, that left 6 bikes with 7 riders - Paul, the two Marks, Derek, John P & Therése and myself.

Mark1, John P & Therése and myself met at HQ at Bewleys with everyone bang on time. We had a quick natter before heading off to meet the Three Amigos (Derek, Paul and Mark2) at the Texaco station at Exit 11. Thankfully everyone had learned to spell T-E-X-A-C-O and no one ended up at Topaz instead. Derek was intent on getting us barred from the petrol station again as he lit up a smoke beside the fuel lines. A rival gang was also meeting there but as soon as the six of us banded together they sped off.

Derek showed us the proto-type of a new tyre he is designing. He has invested heavily in the project and it's rumoured that Honda, Ducati and Yamaha MotoGP teams are interested in the design. It's a relatively simple concept but one which hasn't been developed before so he should apply for copyright immediately. The idea is to place more tyre thread on one side of the tyre and leave the other side almost like a slick. So, for example, for fast racing circuits with mainly right-handed bends, you are using the slick part of the tyre but the other side is good in wet weather. Derek has been trying it out on roundabouts and says it really works well but the Maltesers keep sliding off the dashboard. It certainly seemed to do the job as later in the day, following a short but heavy shower in the Wicklow mountains, he zoomed around the treacherous bends leaving us all in his wake. Hopefully Derek will get a big financial injection so he won't have to keep embarrassing us by looking for the OAP reduction when we visit attractions.

Derek has also been busy testing some of his ingenious new ideas about warning lights on dashboards. **Gavin may well want to have a meeting with him as he might find that his problems with the lights on his Ducati's dashboard have been solved.** Derek has developed a black sticky tape which he places over the offending warning light so you don't notice it and therefore it doesn't bother you when you are riding the bike. Now that's just brilliant!!

Mark2 has also gone NUTS! - he has replaced all the engine bolts on the Beemer with stainless silver allen-head bolts. They look great okay but the best accessory he has added is the matching red "crrgdublin" sticker.

We headed off from Texaco down the M50 and N11 to Wicklow. Nobody seemed to want to set the pace so I took over and set a good steady pace and we reached Wicklow fairly quickly. Derek brought us to a nice little café - The Beier Café just opposite the turn up to Wicklow Gaol, where he gets a discount. We parked the bikes and headed in and it was surprisingly spacious inside. The food was great and the coffee was the best I've had tasted in ages. No Latté's or Cappuchino's for THIS bunch of hardened bikers!



Three of us were sporting our CRRG polo shirts and I must say in all honesty that the tops looked surprisingly well on Paul and John P. During breakfast there was yet another CRRG presentation. Yes, Therése has successfully passed the tough initiation trials of having to do three rideouts with the CRRG. She was delighted with her special keyring and said she'd treasure it forever. It's rumoured that John P already has an order in for 2 CRRG tops for Therése now that she's a fully-fledged member. A few photos were taken of John presenting the keyring but no soppy pictures of people kissing are allowed on the CRRG website so only the following picture is permissible.



We were all surprised when Mark1 only had the small breakfast - no beans. Apparently, he is under strict doctor's advice regarding his diet as the farting could rupture his back passage. He showed some will-power at the café okay but later lost control at the Greenan farm when he munched a huge "package o' Tayho" all by himself. Then we went to the Tea Rooms there and he had apple tart, chocolate cake and scones.

We had an interesting morning as we walked around the farm, had a look at the various museums and the farm animals at Greenan Farm. Unfortunately, we never thought of having a go in the Maze - the main attraction at the farm!! It was lovely and sunny and warm but there weren't too many people there. We had a good walk around and then headed to the Tea Rooms where Mark1 was hiding in the back room, already on his second helping of chocolate cake.



After more intellectual discussions, we headed off again back towards Laragh, the sun still shining. Derek took us up part of the Glenmalure road before heading by the Wicklow Gap and on into Laragh. We had a heavy shower in Laragh so stopped for a quick change into rain gear before heading on to Sally Gap. The roads are tough going, trying to watch the bends, avoid the potholes and negotiate the bumps. But the scenery is incredible and worth all the effort. Paul must have thought he was on a Kawasaki Z1000SX as he kept up with Derek and Mark2 on the twisty bits. John particularly found it hard going on the big Pan, especially with 2-up. We stopped as planned just past the crossroads at Sally Gap for a quick chat and smoke before we headed on, splitting up into three groups as we navigated our way on to the M50. John P and myself eventually found the M50 and were making good time until I spotted a white bike up ahead with hi-vis stickers and a rider wearing a white helmet and hi-vis jacket.. We slowed down and tucked in behind a car travelling behind the "cop". But an Audi which had been tailing us up the M50 didn't slow down and sped by him. When the "cop" didn't go after the Audi, I figured something was strange so I moved up behind the bike. It turned out that it was a rider on an ex-cop bike !!! So we overtook him and sped off, getting home about 3 o'clock.

It was a great day out. The Greenan Farm was worth the visit, the brekkie was fab, the scenery was incredible but the craic was the best part. I think everyone really enjoyed the day. Hopefully we'll get a bigger turnout on the next one. And, with a bit of luck, we may even get to see the Marble Arch Caves.....???

By the way, just as an "aside", Dermot mentioned that himself & Claire wore their (blue) CRRG fleeces to the Walderstown races and a girl came over to admire the tops and ask him what group they are with!!! I tell you - they're Babe-magnets and it'll be dangerous to let Gary and Sam out in theirs!!!!

'til the next one,

Ride Safely.

Alan