

RIDEOUT REPORT - Sally Gap & Glencree 4/6/12

Another record for CRRG !!! No... not the biggest group of CRRG members on a spin, or the most members on a Honda 50, or the member with the longest toe-nails but we actually managed to get our for a spin **THREE WEEKS IN A ROW!** An incredible feat and a record which will be hard to beat in this beautiful, mystical country of ours, I'm sure you'll all agree.

With so many members away or unavailable or just "pure skint", it was looking like we'd only have around 5 riders for the June bank-holiday Monday spin. As it turned out, it was left to just two of the veteran founding members to carry the flag - Mark1 and myself. But the forecast was good for Monday and we decided not to waste the opportunity to get out for another spin and break the record so we decided on a shorter spin around Wicklow instead of the planned spin to Carlingford. We met at 9:30 at HQ at "Byools" on the N32 and headed off via Exit 11 off the M50 to the N81. Just past Brittas, we took the turn for Kilbride and up some lovely winding roads to Sally Gap. The scenery was incredible and we stopped a couple of times for some photos. Mark went off deep into the woods at one stage for some of his renowned "arty" photos and met a fellow arty type who had parked his Honda Goldwing further up the road. He never said what happened, but Mark came running back to where we had parked the bikes looking like he had seen a ghost.....

Anyway, we pushed on and crossed the Sally Gap, turning left for Glencree. There were loads of feckin Sean Kelly and Stephen Roche wannabe cyclists everywhere. Thought we might have spotted Mick there but he probably now prefers smoother, flatter surfaces which wouldn't grate away as much skin if you were to fall off. We took a couple of nice photos of the Blade and the Beemer and then Mark wanted to have a pee. But the Glencree Visitor centre was only a short distance away and I persuaded him not to strain the spuds just yet. We quickly arrived at the Visitor centre and had a very tasty breakfast in the Armoury Café there (which I have included it in my list of cafés and restaurants on the Blog). As usual, Mark insisted on a large breakfast which unfortunately included a lot of beans. Once outside, he may well have beaten another record - the longest fart by a CRRG member!

Only a few hundred yards down the road, we stopped again - this time at the German War Cemetery. This is where Germany military personnel from both World Wars are buried. (Paul, the Group historian, will fill you in on more details.....or just GOOGLE it!). It's a sort of eerie place, quite small and partly set into a cliff face. A car also pulled up there shortly after we arrived and a group of people were taking some photos. Thankfully, Mark didn't mention the war.....

I had never gone further down that road before so we decided that, as it was still early, we'd see where the road would take us. After more nice winding roads, we eventually ended up in Enniskerry. Along the way, I had seen the signpost for Powerscourt Waterfall and would have headed there but skin-flint Mark wouldn't pay the entrance fee. We got to Enniskerry and followed the signpost there for Bray but we ended up going around in circles and ending up back in Enniskerry before we asked a bloke on a Buell for directions. He was very helpful and told us to take what the locals call the "12 bends" road which would take us onto the N11 and M50. It was a short stretch with lovely bends alright which Derek would probably enjoy so much that he'd turn around and do them a few times. But as there were trees on either side of the road, the surface was still wet and slimey after all the rain the previous day so we took it handy until we got onto the N11, joining the M11 and then the M50. As Mark was coming up to his Exit off the M50, I decided to leave him and unleash the Blade for a few miles and was home by 1:00 pm.

We both enjoyed the spin, the brekkie and the fantastic scenery. Looking at the weather today, and the long-range forecast, we made the right decision to get out for another spin while we could.

I hope we get some good weather soon as I plan on doing a couple of longer trips to a couple of places recommended by Mick - the Marble Arch Caves in Fermanagh and the Arigna Mining Experience in Roscommon. It would be great to get a big turnout for these as we could avail of group rates!!

'til the next rideout,

Ride safely,

Alan L.