

Spirit of the Sixties 2019

The Spirit Run route started again from Fleet Air Arm Museum at Yeovilton as we really enjoyed the excellent facilities last year. The Tiverton Canal Basin was the destination venue which we last visited in 2011 on the Spirit of the Sixties run. We dispensed with the coffee stop this year in an effort to assist with the problems of the turn round time available for marshals. This experiment was appreciated by most entrants and marshals and will be extended to next year.

The routes between Yeovilton and Tiverton and return were checked out many times before the day, and started by taking a ride over the Somerset levels via Langport and Curry Rival returning to the A303 in Ilminster and then up over the Blackdowns passed the Wellington Monument to emerge onto the A38. The ride down to Tiverton was mainly downhill over the M5 and along dual carriageways. The marshals parked in the picnic area of the car park. The entrants entered the canal basin via the next turning up the hill where the sharp, narrow and uphill entrance didn't cause too many problems.

A marshal was located just inside the gate to monitor the gates to a children's playground entrance. The bikes parked on the grass provided a wonderful sight in the sunlight that was enjoyed by the great number of visitors. We were welcomed by the rangers and staff at Tiverton who even provided a PA system and an enthusiastic constant running commentary.

After the extended lunch break, we left the venue turning left out of the site to head via Cullumpton and over the M5 again to Honiton. A brief trip along the High Street and we turned onto the A35 and up over the hills to peel off left through Axminster. With no major delays there, we then headed over Windwhistle to Crewkerne. Turning Northwards and on passed Holy Tree going towards Martock onto the A303 and back through Ilchester to return to the Yeovilton Air Museum. Then tea and cakes and presentations, with the following trophy winners.

Best Standard - Tim Deverill BSA A10 Super Rocket 1961

Best Special - Ian Legg Norton Dominator 99 1959

Best Japanese - Terry Brock Honda CB160 Sports 1965

Best Italian - Terry Spellward Moto Guzzi VSO 1980

With thanks to Ian Mathias MC Electronics for sponsorship

Norton Owners Club Award - Barry Blake Commando 1972

With thanks to the NOC and the family of Wally Davis for sponsorship

Marshals Award -- Calam Brown

Spirit of the Sixties Award -- Ross Brown

As a point of interest of the 138 bikes booked on the run 87% were 20 years old or older
69% were 40 years old or older
33% were 50 years old or older
7% were over 60 years old

So it certainly was a classic run, hopefully enjoyed by all

--JD