

My adventure started 5pm 27th march, the day before the "south west peninsula spring rally" (SWPSR). The SWPSR is a scatter rally based in Somerset, Devon and Cornwall, organised by the Somerset Advanced Motorcyclists. Since I had never done this rally before, I decided to stop over near the rally start point the night before. I quick check on [trivago.co.uk](http://trivago.co.uk) and I found Belfield house, a good value B&B in Shepton Mallet, just 20 miles from the rally starting point in Langport, Somerset. I started the rally at 8.30am at the Kelway garden centre in Langport. The rally involved visiting a set number of towns and villages in the southwest and answering a clue about each place visited. As I hadn't done this rally before, I decided to only do the bronze level challenge, which required me to visit 10 different places. The weather at the start of the rally was very pleasant with blue skies and only moderate wind. My planned route was to travel to Weymouth via a series of sleepy out-of-the-way villages and stop for lunch at Eype just after Weymouth. After reaching the 4th clue at the village of Tincton, the clouds and rain set in for the long haul. I donned my waterproofs and was on my way (if you don't ride your bike when it rains, you will never ride it in this country). I arrived at Eype at noon, since it was a manned checkpoint and I had to stop and answer a quiz anyway, I decided to stop and have a brew as well. Whilst at Eype, I got talking to some of the Somerset advanced motorcyclists, and they were keen to tell me why the BMW RT is the best motorcycle in the universe (I prefer Ducatis myself). The second half of the rally was very wet initially, with some heavy fog when riding across the south coast, but the weather improved the further north I travelled. I actually got to the final checkpoint at 2.30pm, 2 1/2 hours before the finish point opened! I decided to visit the Fleet Air Arm museum in Yeovilton and kill a few hours before riding to the finishing point, the Kelway garden centre. At the end of the rally I was treated to a T-shirt, certificate and a Lasagna (all included in the rally price) in excellent company of like-minded people. After a hearty meal, I made my way back to Leicester. Door to door, 500 miles. The SWPSR. Is a very well organised event and the higher level challenges are reasonably achievable within the daylight hours. I highly recommend this event for those who like to eat miles, and I will be attending next year with the details on the club website.