

To commemorate the founding of the Fosse Riders Motor Cycle Association in 1959 the club decided that a ride the length of the Fosse Way would be a good idea around mid-summer's day. Exeter being the southern end of the Fosse several members booked a night at the Premier Inn just off the M5 in Exeter to ride the next day to Lincoln the northern end.

I decided that I would ride both ways north to south and back so I had a sleep during Saturday afternoon and fueled up in Market Harborough at 6 pm and visited the clubroom to wish Darryl happy birthday before leaving for Lincoln around 8.15 pm. Riding around for a while I found a spot where I could get a photo of my bike with the cathedral in the background, then filled up at 9.20 ready to ride the Fosse Way taking the original route as far as possible, A46, through Newark rather than the bypass, continuing to the Cossington junction through Syston, Thurmaston and the A607 to the central Leicester ring road to the Narborough road then missed the left fork after Sharnford and went too far west on the B4114 eventually getting back on track at Brinklow.

A good ride south with a couple of dog-leg crossroads and very little traffic until I found an all-night petrol station at Stow on the Wold at 1. am, 133 miles down the road from Lincoln. While drinking a coffee my phone buzzed with a text "happy birthday from the club members in Exeter" so I replied and woke someone up as they weren't partying as I assumed. (the text was sent at around 9 pm!)

Passing Cirencester and through Tetbury across the M4 towards Bath where signs for Radstock and Shepton Mallet were missed so while I was studying the map a passing squad car stopped and told me "where to go" in the nicest possible way. After Ilminster, the route is uncertain as the Roman road is not used these days, After filling up at 4.20 in Podimore, I went via the A303 to Honiton although Axminster is mentioned on Wikipedia as on the original route. A30 to Exeter across the M5 and tour round the city trying to find the Premier Inn (yes I didn't take the address with me!). A lad, somewhat worse for drink (at 6 in the morning?) slurred the directions for the Inn by the Railway station which was the other Inn but all they would tell me (Data Protection!) was the post code for the Inn by the motorway where I arrived for breakfast with the club members, eight bikes with twelve riders/passengers.

We started off in convoy to fill up at Cullompton at 9.30 and on to Cirencester where we were to meet several more club members (including three founding members who are still riding regularly) who weren't able to do the whole run, refreshments and photos and then we left the very crowded town center to refuel and split up to ride to rendezvous at Moreton in the Marsh, more coffee and cake then split up again. Some riding fast to home, others in small groups, me being different went back to Lincoln by the same route on the way down arriving in Lincoln for bike and body fuel at 6.30 pm.

The day had been warm but in the evening cooler and a few spots of rain fell but not enough to require waterproofs just replacement of the jacket liner and warmer gloves, arrived home in M.H. before 9.00 pm.

Although the road miles Lincoln to Exeter is around 280 going from home and back I covered just over 700 miles in the fifteen hours