

Windermere, 7th September.

Not quite the unique experience that Don called it, but still a rare chance to see two Lancasters flying together, as they are booked to display at other airshows around the country before the end of September. Even so there is no guarantee they will both be present as happened at East Kirby on the Tuesday prior to Windermere after the Canadian machine suffered an engine problem, was grounded at Teeside and required an engine change to get it back in the air. On the Saturday they were due to fly up to Prestwick for the Scottish Airshow but poor weather at their Coninsby meant they were again grounded so would they make it to Windermere? Sunday brought better conditions and they set off for Scotland. They performed up there then at Port Rush in Ireland before setting course for home via Windermere, Morecambe and Holmfirth.



So it was on Sunday morning that eight Hatters met up at Rivington North services for the ride up to The Lakes. Taking the motorway up to junction 36 then the A590 and following that I “borrowed” a road used by Red Rose Chapter for their Wake the Lakes parade ride to take us into Bowness and to the Braithwaite Fold car park - free parking for motorcycles, a nice café and toilets, so one to remember for the future. We parked up and walked to Cockshott Point where we would wait for the Lancasters to fly down the lake, picnic on the grass for some or a walk along the lake side into Bowness to pick up some food. At quarter to three it was time to get ready and five minutes later the sound of the Merlin engines could be heard approaching from the North. Both Lancasters flew, unfortunately for the photographers, straight overhead. Not ideal for photographs but the noise from eight Merlin engines made the hairs on the back of your neck stand up.



We made our way back to the bikes and decided to make the most of the nice weather. I again “borrowed” a Red Rose route, this year’s afternoon ride around Coniston. Leaving Bowness we headed towards Troutbeck Bridge, slow moving at first but as we approached Ambleside it got worse. The traffic was stationary and the road too narrow to filter so we had to sit in the queue. Once through Ambleside the traffic cleared and we enjoyed the roads down to Coniston, Torver and along the edge of Coniston Water before making a fuel stop at Newby Bridge. We made our way back to the M6, traffic again heavy especially around the Blackpool junction and another late finish but nevertheless a great day out.

Ross Fearn
Head Road Captain