

Bird's eye view



Summer 2011
edition

"The elderly of today" - I enjoy cycling and when I am out and about on the bike I always take care to make sure I give pedestrians and other road users space and a cheery "hello" as I pass them by. But is it just me or has anyone else noticed that pedestrians are becoming more miserable? Is it due to the weather or the economic climate? Recently, whilst on the cycle track I was at the receiving end on elderly ladies anger who was walking in front of me - my crime - I slowed down behind her to wait for Lee (yes that's right I had to wait for Lee!!!), I looked back then turned forward to find her standing in front of me lecturing me on why had I not rung my bell and how I should not have been there (now I'm confused as it was a cycle track!) and how "fed up she was with cyclists being behind her. With a cheerful smile I said "Ok, can I get past now and have a nice day" as I cycled off. But sadly this is nothing compared to the physical abuse experienced by Pottsie a couple of months ago when cycling in Stover park. He was confronted by an elderly man and his wife who were walking their dog who were so aggrieved that he was cycling in that area that they actually pushed him off his bike and then left him on the floor without seeing if he was alright - now we all know Pottsie does not need any extra help to fall off his bike and in this case he was lucky that he only sustained a bruised rib and shoulder - fortunately a young lady came to his rescue and helped him back onto his bike. But do I see a link to this abuse of cyclists? - yes it appears that elderly people who are walking are targeting the cycling population so bashers beware when you see an elderly person on two feet walking in front of you take care as you could be their next victim!!



Bashers that are Crashers: Mudsie came a cropper in May whilst apparently cycling back from the bash, she assures me that alcohol was not a cause and her front light fell off getting caught in the wheel. She has managed to crack her pelvis but is progressing well on crutches. I am pleased to report that V2 is well on the way to recover after his shoulder injury in December. He says his shoulder is getting stronger, although not yet back to work he is now managing to cycle his road bike.



Truckers Festival - The month of June hosts many great festivals around the country including Glastonbury and the ocean festival all extremely crowded and expensive, however in the Teign Valley there is a more intimate, less well know festival that rivals these well known ones - its called the "Trucker Festival". It is very similar to these bigger festivals but just on a small/cheaper scale. It too is held on the rainiest weekend in June, held in a soggy,wet,muddy field, there is a "marque" where the live entertainment is to be found next to the real ale beer "shed" opposite the porter loo with "live" music via the portable stereo . But what really makes this festival stand out from the rest of the big festivals was the food - Mr Westaway sausages were being tossed by the man himself - yes that's right the famous sausage maker Mr Westaway was tossing his very own brand of sausage on the BBQ.



He gave a master-class on "making perfectly formed meat balls"- the secret is in the handling - you need a firm warm hand to roll and mould the meat, this will cause the meat to become moist, warm and sticky - it is at this point that your can mould it into the desired shape - this shape will be strong enough to with stand the firmest/roughest tossing ensuring the end product maintains its desired firm shape prior to consuming.



The festival started on the Friday evening, continuing over the weekend climaxing in the wettest tide of the year.



This year it was poorly supported with only a few hardened festival goers attending (did the forecast put people off?) - for all those that did attend we had a great time, thanks to Trucker for his hospitality and a big well-done to the 8 bashers that ventured out on the wettest Sunday ride of the year! And for the Sunday morning entertainment - a big thank-you to Lustley never before has it been seen a mini-skirted women in stocking, stiletto's and a waterproof jacket so quickly reduce a mans tiny very soggy morning erection to the size of a small package so quickly - is that why Binbagbob is always smiling? - sadly the photo did not come out!!!!

Blow-Torches' Welsh Weekend - A head banging off-road cycling weekend - ok I can remember how to do it I thought so Myself and Lee dusted off our full suss bikes and joined the "headbangers" for a weekend of welsh "headbanging" - and it was great!. We chose to avoid "maxing it" downhill in full body armour at death defying speeds on the first day, instead completing the semi-technical marked bike park routes. The Up-hills were rocky/rooty at times with the downhill's ranging from easy to "I think I'm going to walk that bit"! However by the end of the weekend I had surprised myself at how fast and in control I had actually managed to complete the cycles.



The group was small including all ranges of mountain biking abilities from myself -the safe cyclist through to Snakey, Blow torch, Dennis and Stonewall - the down right insane cyclist!!! But we all managed to cycle as a group some maxing it up



hill and some downhill. During the long Saturday ride (miles) I had a lesson in off road nutritional - having run out of food (due to the fact that I had mistakenly listened to a drunken plan the previous night that "we are doing the short ride only and the long ride Sunday" I had taken 1 power bar) at the top of the mountain the plan was in true bash style suddenly changed to lets do the big one! After hours cycling I hit the well know "wall" Stonewall and Dennis both came to my rescue offering me a nibble of their "goodies" at that point I would have chewed on anything of nutritional value! So I agreed - it turned out to



be a "meat and potato pie" -yep that's right they were both carrying not a nutritional power bar but Ginster's cold meat and potato pies!!!-however they were the best pies I have ever tasted -thanks guys!

We all spent a cosy Saturday evening inside Stonewalls VDub tent extension- we managed to get 9 people inside whilst also cooking a curry-boy was it warm inside! And drinking in true bash style copious amounts of alcohol! The Sunday ride was a shorter but not less mountainous ride as half the group were homeward bound in the afternoon. A great weekend of cycling.

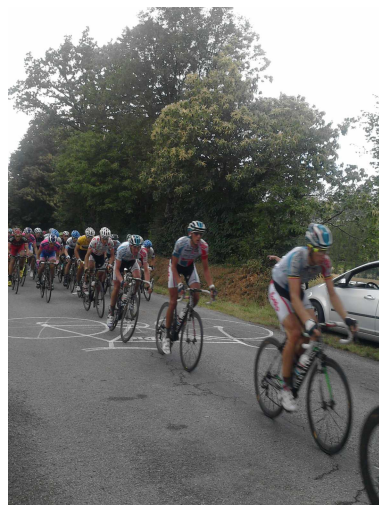
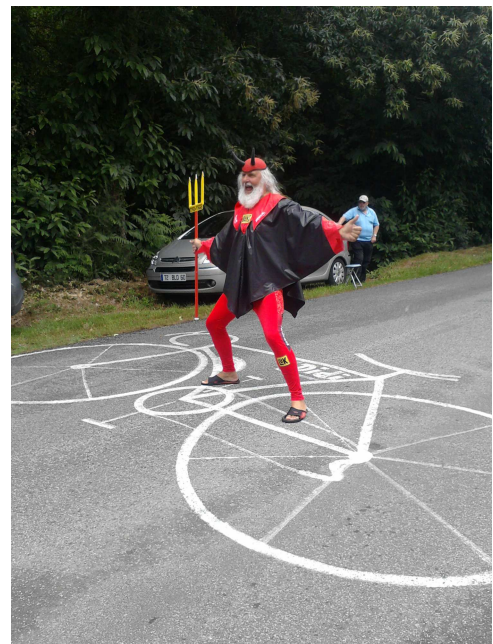
Dandy's "Tour de France":- Lee told me that we had the chance to see the "tour de France" live - an opportunity too good to miss - only one snag- to go I had to cycle with the "fast boys" one of which was Dandy!! Ok I can do this I thought if I train really hard, eat health and avoid alcohol for the few months before the trip (just like a "tour de France" professional cyclist would) I would be able to keep pace with them - no problems!!!! The planing stage went well -it was just the completing of the training that I failed miserably at, so it was with great interpretation that I boarded the ferry to France for this trip!. The trip was



awesome, we saw 3 stages of the "Tour de France" a start, finish and middle. We stood by the road side feeling the "pull" of the peloton as it went by, the noise and atmosphere at the start was unbelievable -massive amount of vehicles, expensive bikes everywhere, cyclists milling around



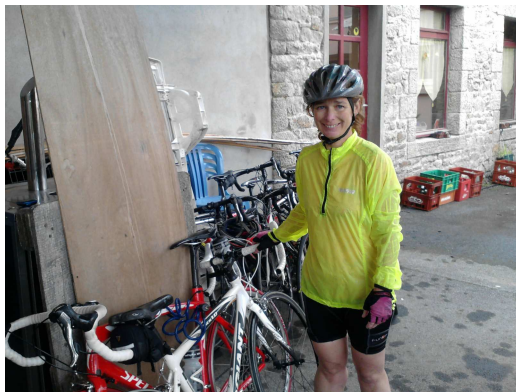
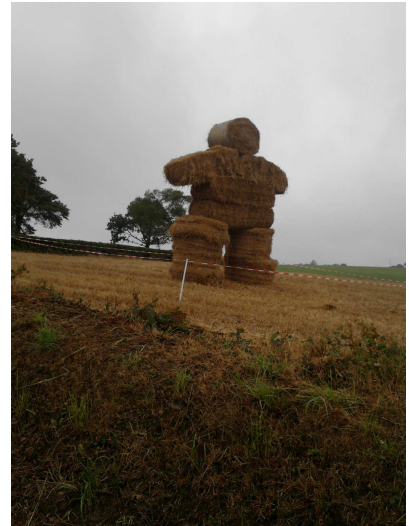
and giving interviews and the town becoming a "ghost town" within 30 minutes of the tour starting. People stood for hours in the rain just to see the cyclist "fly by" at amazing speeds at the finish with the hype of the event and excitement was amazing. The towns and villages along the route had all made such a great effort to decorate the streets and there was BBQ's and street parties/festivals in every town. We stood next to the "red Devil" whilst watching the tour come past - a crazy man who went mad jumping up and down every time some one tooted their horn at him



It was a great experience which I could defiantly recommend to anyone to go and watch.



Bothways "Tour de France" - However for me I was experiencing my own personal mini "tour de France"! Having never ridden in a group at speed this was a totally new experience. From day 1 I found weakness would not be tolerated! getting the 1st puncture of the tour I shouted "puncture, I have no pump" "OK" was the reply as the riders disappeared into the distance! Alone on a French road with a flat tyre my knight in shining armour appeared over the horizon in the form of an elderly French man on a bike! Having no idea what he said to me or what I'd agreed to he happily repair and pumped up my flat tyre, after a quick "thank-



you" peddled off with no idea where to go. Lee found me happily sat by the roadside, back tyre fully inflated (he is still unsure how I managed to repair it without a pump!!) So my first learning curve was not to slow down going down hill or get a puncture! - sadly this lesson was not learnt 5 further punctures within 2 days later I ended up replacing the tyre and inner tube!!!

Very quickly I realised I had to pick up the pace becoming expert slip streamer the biggest person - thanks Heidi!! Most of the rest of the tour saw me with my head down and my legs pumping keeping pace with the peloton. The 2nd day having taken a car assisted trip we stop 8 miles from the finish line and cycled a lovely sunny 50 mile loop to get there averaging comfortable 15-20 mph. Day 3 saw this average increase dramatically over a 64 mile loop around Cleguerec allowing us to ride the last 32 miles on the tour route. After a fast hard 32 mile I had to lose the peloton and myself and Lee finished it alone. We cycled a total of 64 miles before lunch with an 8 mile hard sprint which finished me off!

Although totally knackered (I know how the "tour de France" riders feel now) and getting back saying it was the worst ride I had ever done- being pulled along by the guys at quite scary speeds, riding empty roads that were blocked for a big event with people beside the road cheering us along as if we were part of the elite pack or more like a cheap warm up group!!! which when I was really tired and cold did spurred me and having ridden 64 mile in 5 hrs I realised (when I was warm and dry that it had actually been a great achievement.



My last day of cycling to the start of the tour was a more leisurely event (I think the fatter boys had worn themselves out the day before!!) with even time for sight seeing and photos!!! although we did some sprinting we had periods of cycling at a more gentle pace! Despite being pushed to my limit at times I really had a great tour and would do it all again with a motor attached to my new carbon fibre bike!!!!

Bashers caught out: In late June two female members of the TVPB were spotted on a Brittany Ferries crossing to Roscoff. Whilst they were nursing their cheap glasses of “plonk”. An amorous couple sat at the next table with a bottle of champagne. Two sips later the couple were heading for their cabin with lust in their eyes. Having been watching the couple closely and realising they had left the bottle of posh champagne, quick as a flash, Mash and Satnav moved in acquiring the almost-full bottle of finest champagne consuming it quickly to remove any evidence of the crime. Despite the effects of sea-sickness (or was it the hangover), Satnav was later able to identify that her feet would stop hitting her panniers if she put them on her gorgeous new Cannondale the right way round (with a little help from a cyclist who turned them round for her!). We can only hope they made it to their destination

. . . sent in by a roving reporter

Maydays Minor incidents: Mayday whilst on Dandy’s tour de France tour was witnessed to have 1 accident and 1 “near miss” both involving the younger female age group!! Having seen the finish of the tour de France, and being surrounded by the elite of the cycling fraternity, the last thing you want to do is fall off because you forgot to “unclip” - yep that's right, in spectacular style Mayday managed to take out a small child in her pushchair who was lovingly being pushed along by her grandfather, as Mayday was slowly cycling along, he lost his balance and plunged into the pushchair, fortunately the child was ok, but mayday managed to flatten the old mans hat as he flung himself over the pushchair to protect her from Maydays clutches!!! The second Incident, with confidence, Mayday



decided to try to take out a whole school of young girls about to cross the road, as he came flying round a bend obviously thinking in his mind he was being chased by Mark Cavendish, the first of the girls were just putting their feet on the crossing to cross the road, quick thinking by their school teacher saved the day avoid-

ing Mayday having a multiple pile up with a group of teenage girls!!!

However on this tour Mayday’s secret passion has been unearthed - is this the secret to his amazing speed and endurance on the bike - yes mayday is a secret Banana split eater and here is the evidence-

What a difference a few years make!! Thanks to Deb and Martin who sent in these pictures from cheddar 2003 and 2005 - how many bashers do you recognise?



Tripey's rocking van - On Thursday 14th July at 18:50 bashers noticed that Tripey's van was rocking in a suspicious manner-on lookers said it seemed to start rocking forward and backwards gently then as it started to pick up speed and momentum strange deep breathing, moaning and grunting noises were heard to emanate from inside the van culminating at the peak of the rocking with a loud "OH YES". As silence fell on the surrounding area, a rather sweaty Tripee was seen leaving the van with his bike supporting a tired but satisfied look on his face. What had happened? On further investigation inside the van, it did not show as expected a naked female or even a soggy towel but a hack saw and cut through bike lock!!! Yes Tripee had forgotten his bike padlock key and had to saw through the lock that was securing his bike inside the van to release it !!! - On the ride later Tripee and Manky were heard to be comparing bike lock cutting experiences together!!!

Stermy Archer's explosive rim: Stermy Archer arrived late looking hot and flushed at the Royal Inn Dunsford with a flushed looking Flossie seen sneaking in close behind. A concerned Blaster asked him what had happened-he was heard to reply in a shaky voice " it was terrible - my rear rim has just exploded due to heat and friction whilst Flossie was up my arse - I don't know how she didn't fall off!!" - well there's not a lot you can say to that except complement Flossie on her awesome staying power and balance!!!! - well done!

Exeter's naked Bike ride - now this is a sight we never expected to see!!



100 bike riders signed up for the naked bike ride in June through the streets of Exeter organised by environmentalists. It was described as a "peaceful, positive and fun protest exposing the need to rediscover non-oil-dependent modes of transport, and highlight the vulnerability of cyclists. Were glad to see one former TVPB member now known to be a CTC member joined in the cycle ride. Although I'm not quite sure he understood the true meaning of the words a naked bike ride!! The group left Duckes Marsh at noon after painting their bodies and bikes with colours and messages. The route took them through Exe Bridges, Coombe Street, through Princesshayes, Sidwell Street and Southernhay before returning to Duckes Marsh at 1.45pm.

The next naked bike ride is planned for June 2012 so don't forget to put that date in your diary!!

Birdseye needs you to survive- Is this the end of Birds eye? As the editor and writer of Birdseye, when this magazine started in August 2007, it was hoped that it would be supported by the bashers who would send write ups of the events that they had attended and trips that they had been on. Sadly this has never really happened and unfortunately as I do not get to as many of the bashes or events as I did when I started writing the magazine I am finding it increasingly difficult to produce a magazine that will interest you all and is relevant. This months missing write-ups includes great trips such as the Cheddar weekend and Dandy's Dinky tour . So it is up to you - has Birdseye come to its natural end or do you want the magazine to continue? If so please email me using the title "Birdseye" any write-ups on tours/bike rides or just general gossip to annareffell@yahoo.co.uk. If I receive enough information then Birdseye will continue if not then I will step down as writer and editor and let someone new take it on

Forth coming events:

Dates for the diary:

Forest of Dean camping weekend booked for 9th to 11th Sept 2011 - Lucy and Spoons are organising this event for £6:00 per night camping at Rushmer farm Coleford

Bin Bag Bobs Booze cruise 25-27th November - a quick hop over to France for a chilled out cycle, collect any booze required for Christmas and a fun weekend - what could be better?

Bobbiball's weekend 2012 is being held at Welsh Bicknor on the 3/2/2012. Its a former Victorian rectory near Ross on Wye with awesome off road cycling lead by Ken-The-Rave and great road riding around the Symonds-Yat area. Catered again by the great Bucktu - a weekend too good to miss - look out for the flyers coming out soon.



Diddy's secret exposed: Finally we have found out why Diddy has not been seen at the bash in recent weeks, she has apparently been spending time over in France. How do we know? What evidence do we have, well I think the following pictures speak clearly! So it is true Diddy is a se-



cret graffiti artist - although I think that she should stop signing her art work to remain anonymous!!!

