

Bird's eye view



Spring 2014
edition

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/452493/Climber-who-scaled-Snowdon-peak-naked-branded-stupid-and-irresponsible>

Arckles at their best! Dan Arkle hit the headlines in January after climbing Crib Goch, a notorious ridge next to Wales's highest mountain recognised to be the country's 2nd biggest peak and notoriously dangerous with a vertical drop of several hundred feet. He climbed it by torchlight using an ice axe and crampons, nothing unusual about that until he shed his clothing and continued along the notorious snow covered peak on which several people have lost their life stark naked! Mountain rescuer branded the stunt as "the stupidest thing he has ever seen". "Apart from the fact that he's naked and exposed, he has nothing on his feet which means he has no grip with the mountain". He suggested this was not a good idea at all especially as in winter this ridge could be a death trap."

Dan's response to this criticism was "I wanted to highlight how weak and vulnerable humans are on the mountains without modern technology and protective equipment around them to



protect them from the powerful and elemental forces surrounding them. It was surprisingly mild at just below zero with no wind which was a good job as I was worried about getting frost-bite and not just on my feet! Having walked a few hundred yards naked he said "my feet got too cold but it did feel very free feeling the snow crunching under my feet whilst not being weighed down by my usual equipment. There was a huge sheer drop to each side so I needed to go very slowly and carefully." We would like to know what Dan used to help him maintain his balance if he was not using his Axe or Crampons!!!! Debarcle admitted his son had been slightly fool hardy by doing a stunt like

that without a thermal hat "he was at serious risk of hypothermia, he knows humans lose the most heat through the head when mountaineering in cold places, he was at greater risk as his hair is not that thick now" Birdseye would like to say please do not attempt a stunt like this for your own safety unless you are of Arckle blood!

EXCLUSIVE:Blaster and RJ's admits to having porcelain surgery: After months of speculation Birdseye can reveal that 2 of our officers have recently undergone figure enhancing surgery. Blaster admitted that over the past few years he had noticed himself shrinking with age. This reduction in size made him feel very small inside, and he was always feeling very flaccid and weak at night. He said Flossie was very supportive, however he felt his weakened body was letting him down. He said "At night all I could do was watch Flossie do all the work whilst I laid there hoping that my strength and power would return again making me big and strong once more". He consulted the medical officer "Dandy" who had heard of a revolutionary new type of body enhancing surgery known as porcelain replacement surgery. He assured Blaster that all the rich and famous were currently undergoing this type of surgery. Blaster discussed this with his old friend RJ who thought it sounded a great idea. Having contacted various Harley Street Clinics Blaster found that the surgery would cost thousands of pounds, deflated again he spoke to Dandy, who managed to use his professional contacts to acquire 1 porcelain replacement at a bargain price of £10.50 with an amazing deal of buy one get one free unfitted. The pair jumped at this offer and persuaded Dandy (after a couple of pints) to perform the surgery (well he was a professor of renal medicine). The pair underwent the knife together and are now both very happy with their Porcelain replacement - Blaster said Flossie is thrilled with it, saying "at night she loves it because when I am hot, strong and ready I just let out a little whistle and she knows I'm at boiling point!. RJ however is not so impressed with his replacement, and is contemplating revision surgery . He said Nightmare is beginning to get very annoyed with me. "I keep peeing on my trouser legs and shoes and its turning out to be quite dangerous for me when using public conveniences. The other day a guy walked behind me and I accidentally wee 'd on his left foot! " On questioning Dandy admitted that the replacements he brought were "seconds" with slight design faults. He said "what did the pair expect for £10.50- Bone China?" It appears that the closest they actually got to this was "made in China". RJ commandeered Royal Doulton to make a replacement for his wonky spout. As can be seen the design chosen has been based on a larger animal than himself and Nightmare chose the colours to match in with their home decor!.



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The TVPB Annual “Gong” awards: Its award season again, when all the rich and famous come out in their finery to accept praise for their work and the adoration from their fans. The start of this season again commenced with the prestigious TVPB “Gong” awards. After a sudden venue change, the awards were again held at the Starcross Fishing and Cruising club. Prior to the awards, the bash split into 2 groups for a road and off road ride before changing out of their lycra into



their finery and walking along the red carpet into the venue. The “nominees” happily mingled with the other bash members during a great buffet unaware of the public humiliation many were to receive! The awards were again brilliantly hosted by “our leader” Pottsie, who with Mudsies help seamlessly progressed through the 25 awards



without major incident! The Mike Wareham memorial glide trophy was again fought for prior to the awards ceremony with the surprise of both winners (Debarcle and Flappy) riding mountain bikes



beating the other competitors on their road bikes. The most promising new riders were recognised with awards to Eve and Dhobi Man (who we thought was actually going to give a thank-you speech with tears included!), Debi was given an award in recognition of her continual “happiness” and smiling nature despite having to put up with and even live with Gassa! Who again unanimously

retained his drinker award! A new award recognising media cover was presented by Unda. The Paparazzi award was given to Diddy for her lightening reactions and speed in photo taking at the scene of Fallen Women’s accident on the millionaires tour. The resulting pictures showed the true horrors even before anyone had given her assistance! Fallen Women picked up the crasher of the year award for this event.



Nightmare received the hospital case for her fight with a stationary bollard on Aunt Sallys most disastrous ride for which he received the award recognising this fact. Other award winners included Spiderman for always being in the wrong ring, Bothways for her dodgy knee, Mudsie for her helping hands, Melon Picker for being a stirrer, Flossie for being an all rounder (not sure what she had to do for that award!!), Tweedledee received Pottsie's plinth, Rent Boy for the most disastrous Thursday ride which again included broken bones, RJ for being a dope peddler (as this was the



only award he has not yet received!), Bothways and Always received the Tandem award for being "together", Blaster for being an Old cranker and Pottsie for the scout basher of the year.



This year the Basher of the year award was rightly awarded to Tonto in recognition of all the hard work she has done this year and also over many years as the rides mistress and Pottsies little helper. It also recognises her great spirit, positive thinking and bravery that she has shown, and continues to show throughout her battle against her continuing illness. Despite her extreme recent ill health, she has not lost her positive cheerful outlook on life and continues to support and attend the bash when well enough - She is a true hero to all in the bash and an amazing person and role model for us all.



The Bobbibal festival 2014: advertised as the most fun you could legally have, this year it certainly measured up to this.

Based at the Exford Youth Hostel on Exmoor, 46 bashers/Green Badgers had signed up for the weekend to pay homage to the force that is Bobbibal by spending the weekend doing what he does best - drinking, eating and cycling!! Due to the weather and ill health 6 failed to attend. Bobbibal's presence was not even certain until the final hours, having cancelled and rebooked on 3



times in 3 days! when he did turn up it was minus his bike but with walking boots!!! The weather forecasters predicted heavy rain/strong winds and possible snow. Bothways and Always arrived at the hostel Thursday evening laden with Beer, cider, wine and food - if cycling didn't happen then there would certainly be plenty of alcohol and food available! With our resident chef unfit, Hank kindly and very capably stepped into his shoes, ably assisted by his trainee sou chefs Marlilyn and John - the food was whole-

some, plentiful and enjoyed by all. Friday night's revelry resulted in no less alcohol being drunk, although it did appear to be of a more quieter nature and far more sophisticated than usual. Groups not only got drunk on beer/cider but now whisky's were also being sampled by the bottleful!-is the Bobbibal festival's clientele's alcohol palate maturing with age?. In the end the weather lived up to all expectations by throwing every type of foul weather at the group that was possible! But did it dampen their spirits - NO- At 10:30 the groups left the hostel to battle the elements with the weather dampening down more than just their hangovers! The roadies took a bashing by the weather on the top of Porlock hill with gusts of wind blowing them off their bikes! The Green Badger brigade made it to the top of Dunkery Beacon for the obligatory photo opportunity! Before riding to Porlock for a hearty meal of hot chilly at the pub. With the weather closing in some took the "car " as-



sisted option to get back to the hostel, however some hard core badgers who were properly kitted out with plastic pants chose pedal power again! Dandy, Manky and the Russian did short cut the return road ride back!



Saturday night saw the youth hostel rocking with the bash “birthday” fancy dress celebrations in aid of Faggots 40th and Niks 50th (who failed to turn up - did he forget due to his extreme age or could he not take the pace anymore?!). The evening started with tasting Fallen Women’s mulled wine, in the end about 15 litres was consumed! Then everyone staggered off to change into



their 70/80/90’s styled fancy dress. The turnout was amazing, with the best fancy dress outfit prize being awarded by Bobbibal to the girls group for effort (and I think showing a lot of thigh!!) with Slush ably joining in the group looking less than stunning in a pair of tight fitting ladies red shorts - well done to all who took the time to dress up. The night continued with a Green Badger off roading down the youth hostel stairs!!



With many dancing the night away to the tunes from guest “DJ Cosmic” who kindly stepped in with the “disco sounds”. Sunday saw no improvement in weather, with many including Dandy failing to get on their bikes (his excuse was he had a sick note!). After another full cooked breakfast organised and cooked by Aunt Sally some of the more hardened Green badgers did make it out for a few hours riding or was it battling the elements? They all



arrived back extremely muddy and very cold as did a group of Road riders who managed to complete the short road ride. Warming stew was waiting to warm up all as the Bobbibal festival drew to a close. A BIG THANK-YOU to all that helped and took part in making it yet another successful weekend. Hopefully next year Welsh Bicknor will be the venue - So Watch this space for news.



The Mystery of the Steak Pasty: This year an unaccounted for steak pasty appeared in the fridge during the Bobbibal weekend -was someone concerned they may become malnourished over the weekend? Or had they heard Bucktu was not going to be there!!!! Bothways, determined to find the culprit set up an undercover surveillance of the kitchen. During the weekend the following prime suspects were seen acting suspiciously in the kitchen and unaccountably checking the fridge. Ingle was ruled out of this suspect list as he would never bring his own food to the bash!!!! When questioned about the pasty all vehemently denied any knowledge of it,



however eventually under intense inebriation one did crack and admit to owning it - but who was that person and why did they bring it? To find out who actually owned the pasty and their reason for bringing it

turn to page 10 for the naming and shaming of the culprit !!!

Bashers that are crashers: one of our newest bashers took a rather spectacular tumble on a Sunday ride recently. Bunty, after the half way pub stop, fully fuelled up on "Thatcher Gold" was "steaming" down a hill at breakneck speed on Dartmoor and slightly misjudged a corner spectacularly crashing into the side of the grass bank. Fortunately her dual airbags, which she said after the accident "I never leave home without them" were fully deployed and saved her any major injury. She managed to dust herself down and cycle to the finishing pub! However the bank did not get away so lightly - the Dartmoor National Park ranger said of the damage "that it will take many years for that to repair and the bank may never look the same again". He admitted after a further structural inspection of the bank had been completed, that the figure of Bunty which had been firmly imprinted during the accident will probably be there for centuries to come. However he did not seem too concerned as he felt that the silhouette that remained with its deep contours would allow many types of wildlife and foliage to flourish in all the new nooks and crannies that had been created during impact. Fortunately Bunty got away with just bruising and knee swelling and got away without having to pay any compensation for damage and repair to Dartmoor property!!!



Bash Celebrations: The bash again has many reasons to celebrate as we spring into those sunny long drawn out evening after dry warm cycles. January saw Bothways and Always announcing their engagement in January. Always chose the romantic Realto Bridge in Venice to pop the questions and Bothways happily said yes. As of yet they have not set a year yet along a date for the wedding but after 6 years the couple don't want to "rush" into anything yet!!!! . Sheila (AKA Squeeler) and David have added



another rasher to their growing bacon collection! In February Sheila gave birth to little Oria Mary Bacon weighing in at a healthy 8lb 3oz. Both mother and baby are doing well. Squeeler, whilst on maternity leave, realised that their ever expanding family required a new



type of off-road "family tandem". So she has designed and developed this with David's help in building it! We look forward to seeing the family "headbanging" again !!!

Emma (AKA Wetwipe) and Mark have had another baby, Emma gave birth to little Rose in March, weighing in at a healthy 7lb. Both Mother and baby are doing well. Granddad Wiffy was with Emma throughout the birth in spirit as he merrily drunk a few beers at the Sunday bash at the Beach pub in Exmouth - he said he was getting into practice for "wetting" the babies head!!!!

MEDICAL ALERT: Don't wash your hair in the shower: Recently the editor of birdseye has noticed that many of the bashers waistlines appear to be expanding. Lycra is not the best fabric to hide the odd bulge and stretched yellow and black lycra is definitely not the best look! What's the cause of this ever increasing waistline? Is it the end product of a winter of neglect, Christmas excess of food and alcohol plus reduced activity related to the cold wet weather? Or is there a much more simple explanation for the group's ever expanding waistlines?. Having spent hours researching the bashers low calorie diet of pies/beer/cake, copious amounts of real ale, cider and wine plus relaxing cycles to the pub the link remained unexplained. However new research recently published reveals a very obvious link to this concerning phenomena. The cause is the shampoo that the bashers use on a daily basis allowing their shiny locks to flow behind them in the wind. Shampoo when washed off the hair runs all over the body, and printed very clearly on the label are the words "FOR EXTRA BODY AND VOLUME" this clearly explains why the bash waistlines are expanding so quickly. However to stop this problem developing further the medical Officer Dandy's advice is to start using dishwasher tablets to wash your hair with. The label on these clearly reads "DISSOLVES FAT THAT IS OTHERWISE DIFFICULT TO REMOVE." The only down side is it takes 60 minute at 80 degrees to gain a lather!!!!



Teign Valley Pedal Bashers are becoming Teign Valley Electric Bashers - there are rumours that the TVPB is becoming the TVEB - its become more evident that with the aging bash population, its members are becoming more dependent on battery assistance to keep moving!! Even Our leader has been converted to battery operated pedal power saying whilst riding with bedpig, they are now enjoying reaching new heights together “we finally reach the peak at the same time which hasn't happened for many years” he explained “its a great relief at our age to know that despite the strain of the ride, we will still be alive at the top knowing our batteries will always kick in to take the strain when the going gets tough as we sprint to its peak”. Bedpig agreed with Pottsie adding “the fact that we have breath to speak at the end is also a big bonus!” Aunt Sally has been on the lookout for electric bikes for bash members that he recognises are slowing down. He has found this perfect Off road model for Unda, Bobbiball and Manky to allow them to gain enough speed to allow them to perform “massive drop-offs” huge “gap jumps” and gnarly



down hills - the fact that they can't do these on a normal bike appears to have failed his memory!! He has found the perfect way to keep Blaster riding with Flossie with this electric tandem. With Flossie sitting on the battery pack he said he is sure Blaster will have the ride of his life peaking at speeds he had never

dreamed of! For the bashers that prefer distance to speed like RJ and Lord Stretch he has this bike with its massive battery packs. It offers the capacity to ride all day without having to plug in for recharging. For the bashers such as Dandy and Heidi that still love the adrenaline feeling resulting from speed, he has found this slim line sexy carbon fibre electric bike with light



weight batteries providing the sprinting assistance they require when being chased by cyclists half their age!! We still have the likes of Wiffy and Trucker who although aging are looking for a bike that can get them down to the pub on, but can also be used on the

farm or in the field. For them he has found the perfect bike - its a solar powered lawn mower bike that allows a neat short grass cut and is very quiet to allow them to sneak off to the pub without being heard!!!!!!



Bash awards and more: Melon picker received the stirrer of the year award, no one is quite sure why but he looked very pleased to have won any kind of recognition from the bash!



John Haywood was christened Spanners recently. The name was derived from the fact that he is one of those blokes who's always "Tooled Up" fixing or making things. Debi was also christened "Bunty" after her ride in the Teign Cellars pub,. Pottsie explained that he saw her as "Bunty" because "all the Bunties I have known have been well rounded, jolly, happy, nice girls & women. Just like our Debi!. I feel confident that this name will become a TVPB generic just like

Poppy, Flossie, Mudsie etc etc". The Leisure Lounge Cafe in Kingsteignton won the F.A.R.T's favourite cafe of the year with Pottsie presenting the prestigious plaque to the owner Tony. It won because it has an excellent Menu, very reasonable prices and is in a great location. The Royal Oak pub received the award for the best pub for the Thursday riders.



Spiderman is starting up a new side line to his Limo business. He is offering a very exclusive up lift deal for the

"headbangers" or anyone that just does not want to cycle up hills!! This package includes full limo day hire at the venue of your choice. The "rock and roll" limo has the capacity to take 6 bikes. It has inside a fully stocked bar including 4 course meal with waiter service, sauna and spar pool plus sun room if the weather is cold to warm you up after the long downhills. This amazing package retails at over £1000 per person but for TVPB members they can book for an exclusive rate of only £999.99 per person per day!



Name and shame: The surprising culprit of the steak pasty supplier was no other than our vegetarian, animal loving cyclist DIDDY. On questioning why she said "I couldn't help myself, it was sitting on its own on the shelf and I knew I had to save it"