

Bolton Hot Wheels CC

Maxgear International Youth Tour

Saturday 29th – Monday 31st May 2010

By Robert Richardson - Under 14 Rider

The Maxgear International Youth Tour is a great experience. The Tour is a series of 5 stages over 3 days. The first stage being an Individual Time Trial followed by four circuit races. The whole tour is based on time, just like the big professional tours such as Le Tour De France or the Giro de Italia. If you finish with the main bunch, everyone gets the same time as the leader of the group (but only if there is no gap of at least 1 second).

Stages were based in Blackpool, Lancaster and Preston over the bank holiday weekend, the first being in Blackpool. I raced in the Youth B, Under 14's category. After the Time Trial I was lying 18th out of 37. Then came the main race of the day, 18 laps of the 1.25 mile circuit. Then it started to rain and I managed to come 17th overall after 1hr and 5mins of racing.

The next event was in Lancaster where we had the two stages. Both stages were 12 miles long and held in opposite directions on the track with 2 hours in between each race. Stage 3 went well where I finished 11th overall. Stage 4 didn't end quite so well because on the last lap, as the group were beginning to accelerate for the sprint, the person in front of me got a puncture and slipped, I crashed into his back wheel and came off as well. I seemed to come off worse as the person that caused it got away with just a puncture on his bike. Luckily, after 3 hours in Lancaster Royal Infirmary, nothing was broken. Just a badly bruised and grazed elbow and hip.

Stage 5 was at Preston Arena's track where my age-group had one 20 mile race to do. As a result of yesterday's crash, I could not compete in this event although my teammates did.

Although I couldn't finish this year I will be back even stronger next year in hope to do well in the Under 16's category. Well done to all the Hot Wheelers especially Tyler with a podium finish. A big thanks to Matt Winston and all the race crew that organised a great weekend.

Thank you Robert for your report and for returning to the race on Day 3 to cheer on your team mates when he could have stayed at home with his war wounds. May I echo the congratulations to all the many Hot Wheelers and their support crew who really flew the club's flag at the race, which had over 260 participants. Who knows next year we may even emulate the Yorkshire team and branch out to a soigneur!

COLIN GREENHALGH'S SPRING OUTING

ATHERTON TO THE "EDEN PROJECT" CORNWALL

Normally, springtime sees me in the (sometimes) warmer climate of Majorca doing battle with Lluc monastery climb & pushing the gears up to Formentera. I said 2010 would be different. For many years I had discussed with others about doing the "Eden Project" ride. Despite lots of conversation, I had no takers for the ride so I planned to do it alone. Using Youth Hostels for overnight stops & trying to keep to "B" roads, where possible, but this is easier said than done!

I allowed myself 12 days to get there and back, trying to average around 70 miles a day. I did not pre-book any accommodation, thinking that, at this time of year things will not be too busy. Oh dear!!

THE START - 12TH APRIL

I had a heartening send off from a group of club members.

The Sunday riders were meeting at Hollins Green for their planned Sunday ride. Hollins Green is really "en-route" for my trip, so at 10.00 O'clock I met the group who were about to set off. When I departed I heard a lot rousing cheers & "good lucks" in my ears as I rode towards Warburton Bridge & into Cheshire, going south. Thanks to you all for that merry send off.

I planned to use the A49 for the main part of the "Northern" section of the ride. I anticipated my first overnight stop in Church Stretton, Shropshire. When I arrived, the YHA was full. Then I tried Ironbridge; again, this YHA was full! So much for not booking!

As we left Cheshire, and the rolling hills of North Shropshire, I came on down through Ludlow, Leominster, still using the A49. The hills now kicked in. Just below Ross-on-Wye, I stayed at the Youth Hostel: Welsh Bicknor, (photo below).



Welsh Bicknor YHA

I had been very lucky with the weather. No Rain & not a lot wind, so far.

Cheddar Gorge was the next stage in the ride. To get to Cheddar I had to get across the River Severn. My memories of this journey in years gone past were not good. In fact "Hairy" just about describes it. The "old" bridge now forms part of the M48. Thankfully the ride across from Chepstow has improved vastly as regards safety & comfort by the inclusion of the cycle path.

The ride to Cheddar Gorge was hard. The road I took, weaved its way down then, through & into the "Gorge", however the 6-mile climb to the top was worth all the effort. Spectacular. The next day leaving the YHA I navigated through Bristol, (did some way say that Bristol is a "Cycle Friendly City", could have fooled me!).

I was heading for Brunel's famous suspension bridge, in Bristol: (I think it would have been easier to find Shergarh.) Once found, the thrill of riding over it was great, a wonderful experience.



Cheddar Gorge YHA.

Exiting Bristol, I now headed for Glastonbury, (tried to get tickets for this years event, all sold out!), on to Honiton & then Exeter. As many car drivers will be reading this & thinking that this is an odd route, remember I am trying to use "B" roads now.

Exeter was a great surprise. It must be some 10 years since I have ridden through Exeter. The changes in traffic flows, road design & the sheer density of traffic meant that I had to ask for assistance. I will always be very grateful to local cyclists that pointed me in the right direction to what turned out to be a very good system of cycle paths around the city. A big thumbs up for Exeter Cyclists!

The next leg of the ride was to Golant YHA, (Nr Fowey) and approx 10 miles from the "Eden Project". This ride is around 70 miles from Exeter.

I decide to go over Dartmoor. It was a glorious sunny day, with the massive benefit of a good tail wind as by this time I was feeling a bit jaded.

Coming down from Dartmoor I rode through Plymouth, used the ferry at Tor Point, veered close to the coast at Looe. Then, I was very pleased to get into Fowey. Because, after a short ferry ride in Fowey it meant that Golant was now only 5 miles away, the rides turn-a-round point.

THE TURN-A-ROUND POINT OF THE RIDE

Golant YHA (Fowey)

Friday 30th April

My "rest day" was split between Boscastle & time viewing the marvel that is the "Eden Project".

Being of an engineering background I was in wonderment at the construction/materials and expertise in building of the Biospheres.

Not only is there a lot admired in the structural aspects, but also the vast varieties of plants, trees & vegetation are a wonder. A visitor needs more than a day to appreciate the full range of beauty here.

But alas I must move on and start to head North & home.



Golant YHA

SATURDAY 1ST MAY

Golant to Boscastle, 30 miles.

My intention was to have an easy ride back home, so Boscastle only being around 30 miles from Golant was looked upon as a "rest day". But it was harder than I thought!

Boscastle is on the North coast of Cornwall and many of you will remember the very serious flooding that happened in 2004.



Boscastle 2004



Boscastle (2009)

Today, the village is completely rebuilt & looking very attractive.

The route going North took me via Bude, Bideford, Barnstable, South Molton, all open country onto my next YHA Exford, bang in the middle of Exmoor. By comparison to Dartmoor, Exmoor is a far gentler ride!



Exford YHA

After a good night in Exford, and fully replenished, I made out for Cheddar Gorge. Now riding the "North" of the county on my return, I had to ride over the Brendon Hills & the Quantocks, all very tame by comparison to earlier challenges a few days ago! After Bridgewater behind it seemed like no time at all before I was back in Cheddar. The experiences I learnt from riding the "Gorge" the previous week, ensured that I found a more efficient way out of the "Gorge"

The rest of the ride North followed very much the same route that I took riding South the previous week, very much to the schedule I had planned for.

I met a few "End to Enders" during the overnights, also a group that were visiting every lighthouse in the UK. (No jokes about "*whose bright idea was this then*")

My last night was by Church Stretton, with lunch in Beeston, South Cheshire before I arrived home on the Thursday afternoon.

Looking back on the trip, I am pleased that it was completed in the time planned for. Despite a small hic-up at the first YHA, arrangements, overall all locations were very helpful with lots of hospitality, the benefit of "early season" bookings?

I hope this diary has bought some inspiration to you.

Colin.

I bet some of you are wondering about the logistics of being away so many nights on the bike, so here are some of the details:

Started April 25th 2010: 12 days riding, average 12 mph. (estimated).

Mileage: 750 - 800 estimated. (My computer broke on the first day)

I took 3 sets of cycling clothes, washing at the Hostels.

1 set of walking out clothes.

£27.00 was the most expensive nights stay, including evening meal, (Welsh Bicknor YHA)

I had 3 meals out for a change.

The weather was great, only rained once.

I had no punctures

The bike held up very, (probably due to regular servicing)



EDEN PROJECT



Thank you to Colin to sharing his adventures with us and to Ian Smith who acted as scribe. I look forward to hearing about your next adventure.

'New' Tameside Cycle Racing Circuit

The circuit in Ashton under Lyne is part of the same Richmond Park complex as Curzon Ashton Football club. The first event to be held at the new venue was the first of a ten race series of circuit races organised by the Tameside Cycling Development Group in association with several Manchester based clubs.

Despite previous notifications, there will now be short racing for Youth D (Under 10's) and Youth E (Under 8's). The races take place on Tuesday evenings at 6.30pm. So far the review of the circuit is very positive. We are very fortunate to have two closed road circuits so close (Preston) with two further circuits just over an hour away (Lancaster and Litherland).

ASDA Tickled Pink Campaign

Saturday 19th June 2010

Thank you very very much to Janet Laycock from ASDA who co-ordinated a Cycle Challenge to help raise money for the Tickled Pink Campaign. Janet visited many scouting and guiding groups to invite them to take part. Around 60 riders came down to the session and took part in the activities.

Thank you to regular riders who provided a fantastic example of the club by helping to demonstrate the skills required. Well done to all those involved, it was all in a good cause and helped to advertise the club as well.

Horwich Carnival Races

Sunday 20th June 2010

Congratulations to all those who took part in the Closed Road Cycling activities at Horwich Carnival Races last Sunday. There was a large representation from the club and you really showed the town exactly who Bolton Hot Wheels are. Official Results are yet to be published but I am reliably informed that the following riders were placed:

Under 8's 1st Addam Hathaway
 2nd Ben Peatfield

Under 10's 1st Isaac Peatfield (Also winner of the 1 lap challenge!)

Under 12's 3rd Joseph Peatfield

Under 14's 1st Martha Gill
Girls

Under 14's 1st Robert Richardson
 3rd Aaron Adamson
 5th Jacob Peatfield

National Road Race Championships

The Country's Top Cyclists Compete in Pendle

Cycling Development North West will host the British Cycling National Championships for both Men and Women on Sunday 27th June. For more information please visit the websites below:

<http://new.britishcycling.org.uk/road/article/20100618-Preview--Men-s-RR-Championships-0>
http://www.cdnw.org/national_rr_champs.html

Bolton Hot Wheels CC Family Fun Day

Saturday 3rd July 2010

It is now just over a week until the 2nd Family Fun Day.

We invite all members (that includes Mums, Dads, Aunties, Uncles and your Brothers and Sisters) to come and take on the 5 Skill Cycle Challenge. (If you came to the Tickled Pink Day you will have had a head start!) There will be lots of other exciting activities, which emphasise the School Fair part of the day. Rijo Café will be providing snacks and drinks, there will be a Guess the Name, a Raffle and lots, lots more.

If you are in a position to donate a fantastic raffle prize, be able to organise an activity or man a stall we would love to hear from you. Everyone's support is greatly appreciated, payment on the pay will be by way of a Tombola prize.

Thank You!

To all those who have provided content for this newsletter, worked on behalf of the club and mucked in when we needed extra bodies during the Tickled Pink Day. It is very much appreciated and that is exactly what makes the club what it is.