

September 1st, 2nd and 3rd September 2009
Or
to Rome, except the A697

As one of the many inspired by Lance Armstrong's comeback performance in this year's Tour De France, Gordon Brown (aka Shuggie) has decided that he too, is going to try and recapture the sporting glory of his, now somewhat distant, youth.

When once his talents shone forth like a fiery comet on the hallowed turf of Netherdale, and in the municipal baths of Galashiels, he has now decided that cycling will be his forte. Whilst not exactly in the mould of Alberto Contador (Gordon is 35Kg heavier and somewhat less aerodynamic than the Spaniard), he is determined not to let this dampen his enthusiasm for what promises to be a gruelling physical challenge.



Alberto Contador on his bicycle



Gordon on his somewhat sturdier bike

Our quest is to cycle from Durness which lies to the east of Cape Wrath, to Coldstream on the Border. This is a distance of 377 miles and is to be done in three days. Each day's cycling of over 100 miles will take at least eight hours and should there be a strong headwind this could be up to 10 hours - see comments above on aerodynamics.



The Route

[Click Here to upgrade to Unlimited Pages and Expanded Features](#)

urness and head down the north west coast on the A838 and in where we take the A835 onto the bustling port of Ullapool. we then sweep past Loch Broom and squeeze through the Corrieshalloch Gorge, by-passing Ben Wyvis before head into either Inverness or Drumnadrochit, where we will collapse for the night.



Pocket Beach - Durness



Kylesku Bridge



Ullapool

Day 2 – 115 miles “Half a league, half a league, half a league onwards, into the Great Glen, rode the two idjits”

Heading south west along the Great Glen, we will hopefully be passing at a great rate of knots Loch Ness, Loch Oich and the imaginatively named Loch Lochy, before reaching the delights of Fort William. After a quick stop for Gordon, at the local bakers we will skirt the southern shores of Loch Linnhe, speed through Ballachulish and then enter Glencoe, where Shuggie is hoping to get a McDonalds ó history never was his strongest subject at school. After a long slog up and beyond the Glencoe Ski station we then have a long descent into Tyndrum and then onto Crianlarich. Here we will don our Kagools and spend the night enjoying the delights of the Youth Hostel



Loch Ness



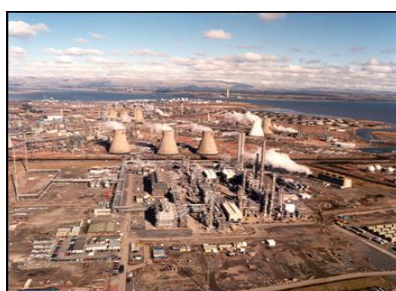
Glencoe



Crianlarich Youth Hostel

Day 3 – 137 miles “Show me the way to go home, I’m tired and I want to go to bed”

After a rousing chorus of the The Happy Wanderer and a farewell Fal De Ree, we shall embark on our final leg and we start by following the A85 like a pair of over enthusiastic bloodhounds. We skirt around the Trossachs and no doubt our trossachs will be somewhat tender by now however that will not hinder our approach into Callender before passing Blair Drummond. The landscape changes significantly as we pass through Stirling and take the A905 along the Firth of Forth, through picturesque Grangemouth before reaching the Forth Bridges. We shall then meander through Cramond, Granton and resist stopping in the watering holes of Leith before leaving Edinburgh by way of Portobello and Musselburgh.



Grangemouth



The bars of Leith



Coldstream Bridge



PDF Complete
 Your complimentary use period has ended.
 Thank you for using PDF Complete.

[Click Here to upgrade to Unlimited Pages and Expanded Features](#)

left, well about another 3 hours of cycling to be accurate, as we finally onto that most famous of roads (up their with Route 66) at last push sees us pass through Greenlaw before we reach our home, where an ambulance will be waiting.

The reason for doing this, apart from trying to shed some of Shuggie's excess bulk, is to try and encourage some of you beautiful / handsome, intelligent, witty and generously minded individuals to part with some of your hard earned (or in some cases, fortuitously inherited) cash which will go towards the following charities:-



We appreciate that circumstances for many people have been somewhat tough over the past eighteen months or so, however we would really appreciate any contribution that you can make towards these worthy causes.

My role in this is as Sancho Panza to Gordon's Don Quixote, which means that I shall have to cajole, harass, look after and no doubt tempt him with a fine selection of bakery products to ensure he completes this challenge without resorting to a taxi.

On behalf of Gordon and I, many thanks and we look forward to seeing some of you in the Marquee at Carfraemill where we will bore you silly for our tales of 'Sex, Lies and Handlebar Tape'.

To make any donations please use one of the following methods:-

1. Send any cheques to the BORDERS CHANGE FOUNDATION c/o GB Telecom, Netherdale Industrial Estate, Galashiels, TD1 3EY
2. Drop in to Gordon or my office at Priorwood, Melrose and hand over the cash personally and you may even get a cup of coffee out of the deal ó no biscuits mind unless it is a very hefty donation!

Many thanks for your support

Gordon Brown & Callum Crawford