



Mr Wonky Legs Akimbo 2007



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Introduction:

I'm in charge of editing the mag and I still make the best coffee here. I reckon I'm a pretty average rider and, ironically don't get out to ride enough to make me much better. I like a good day out in the hills though, I like the challenge of a rocky climb and I enjoy the buzz of a good descent. I'm a wheels on the ground rider, pretty lazy when it comes to bike maintenance, though I still expect my bikes to work without question.

Best Bits Of The Year:

I didn't get to ride many of our super duper test bikes that wafted in this year, though I did enjoy doing our Carbon Hardtails test. Of that, I loved the **Cannondale Taurine's** head-down speed, but for versatility, I loved our surprise winner of the **Merida FLX 3000**.

The other bike that would be a fun project bike was the 2.5in, very racy **Kona Hei Hei**. A frame-up build of one of those would be a fun challenge I reckon.

Dirtworker (www.dirtworker.co.uk). It's a simple, self contained, mini jetwash that works off your car battery, costs £90 and carries enough water to wash two bikes effectively. More importantly, it does it before you go home/get changed so you're far more likely to do it – and wet mud takes less effort to get off than dry mud. Great stuff.

Camelbak Bottle. You put water in it, can't spill it, don't need to tip your head up to drink and it's always there so you end up drinking more water. I wouldn't be without one.

Event Of The Year:

The Strathpuffer. A 24 hour race in northern Scotland in January.

Stupid, stupid, stupid. But the course was great, the camaraderie was strong, there wasn't a grumpy face anywhere and you knew that ANYTHING you did after it would seem easy by comparison.

Most enjoyed:

Getting back to a bit of big hill, old school riding with old friends Andy and Dr Jon when we rode the Devil's Staircase, near Glen Coe. Being dwarfed by real mountains is good for the soul now and again.

Looking Forward To In 2008:

'Tweeny' riding. I want to do more riding in the near-local areas around me. Less 'just' riding out the door and less driving for four hours. I'm going to try those peachy places an hour's drive, or a half hour on the train away. Completely do-able on a summer evening, or spring day, but 'foreign' enough to make a mini mountain bike adventure for me every week.

I'm also going to ride in daylight more. We don't skive off to ride in work time enough. Or ever really. So don't worry if I don't answer my phone, I'm out riding.

