

The BIGGEST Trials Street Ride in London

It is the morning of the 1st of March 2009. The Police London forces are expecting huge crowds of football fans because of the Premier League match between West Ham and Manchester City. There are a lot of people dressed in their football team clothes as it could have been expected. But why are there also so many young guys on strange bicycles heading the same way?

Well, that might have been a hard question for the policemen but everyone who is at least a little bit interested in BikeTrial could have already guessed. Most of the BikeTrial riders from the whole England came to London because of an event organized by a London local rider Jack Meek – the so called Biggest London Trials Street Ride. The official meeting was at on the 1st of March at 11 o'clock but some of the riders (about 40) came already a day earlier and had pre-ride on Saturday. I went with some friends from near Brentwood on Sunday morning by train. As we arrived to London a bit earlier, we didn't go directly to the official meeting which was at London Eye, we had an about two-hours ride at different places in London and met some of pretty famous English riders, for example Tom Rankin, Scott Wilson and others. At eleven we went to the London Eye. When we arrived there, I was completely amazed. I have never seen so many BikeTrial riders at one place elsewhere then at World or European Championship. Nobody knew the exact number because the riders were divided into couple groups but I would say that there were certainly more than two hundred riders, maybe even 250 riders! As I have already said, there were riders from all around the UK- a lot of street riders but some very well-known riders, such as Danny Macaskill or Andrei Burton. However, some Elite riders came even from abroad- Kenny and Wesley Belaey from Belgium with some cameramen from the Extremsports channel and Vincent Hermance from France.

After the initial meeting and some very important information for riders from Jack Meek (they prepared even maps of London with nice places to ride at!), nearly all of the riders were riding for about an hour at the London Eye. After we have been forced to leave that place because of the security people, all the riders divided into many groups and the local London riders led them to different great street-riding places all around the London. Even though it wasn't really organized, after some riding at several places, most of the riders met again in front of the St Paul's Cathedral. There were a lot of spectators over there as well. After that, some of the riders already left but some still stayed and went to some more riding places. Although I left at about 4 o'clock, I heard that some people were riding till it was dark.

I think this was certainly the biggest and also the best street ride I have ever been to. I was quite scared what would happen when 200 riders will be riding in London without nearly any organization but everything went alright. The only small problem was the policemen and the security people, who didn't know about this event. They quite accepted us in the morning but in the afternoon they didn't want to let us ride nearly anywhere. And these are some of the very hilarious quotes of the policemen during our ride.

Police - "You can only take pictures, no videos!"

Charlie – "Is 24 pictures per second okay?"

Police – "Erm...?"

And a quote that completely describes this BIGGEST London ride:

Policeman: "I would fine you all right here now...If I had enough tickets!"



Danny Macaskill and his huge wall ride



The initial meeting at London Eye



Some great unicycle riders came as well



The BIG gap at St Paul's cathedral



Kenny Belaey side-hopping and crowds watching his skills



Vincent Hermance performed very well and many riders tried to learn something from him



About a half of all the riders



Danny Macaskill showed his famous tail whip as well



Jan Musil from Czech Republic now studies near London