

Henry Brydon

I was in Australia on a gap year, millions of miles away from home, when Jack had an epileptic fit while on a cricket tour in Sri Lanka. We thought it was a result of the humidity and over-exertion, not thinking for a minute that it was anything so serious.

By the time Jack went for his scan and discovered it was a very worrying time for all the family, but thankfully he is alive and kicking and as irritating as ever!



Our family wanted to give something back as we know Jack is one of the lucky ones. Brain tumours claim more young lives than any other cancer so I have chosen to raise money for Brain Tumour Research (www.braintumourresearch.org) as something has to be done to improve survival rates and ultimately find a cure. We have Professor Garth Cruickshank, the neurosurgeon at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, who performed Jack's surgery, to thank for putting us in touch with the charity.

A long distance self-supported bicycle ride is something that I have wanted to do for a few years, and I feel that a desire to raise money for a cause I feel very passionate about is the final impetus I need to stop making excuses and do the trip! Leaving in April 2010, I will be cycling 25,000 kilometres from Shrewsbury to Sydney, taking 15-18 months to reach my destination. Together with various other fundraising events, I hope to raise at least £25,000 for Brain Tumour Research.

My route will take me through a huge mix of landscapes and cultures between here and the other end of the planet. Once we have crossed Europe, and after a few weeks in Istanbul organising visas, we will head through Iran and over the very hostile regions of Afghanistan and Pakistan, through a string of 'Stans' before entering China. Crossing China will be long and extremely tough cycling, but once we enter Thailand, it'll all be downhill from there! Having tackled the tropical rainforests of South East Asia and Indonesia, we enter Australia via Darwin before crossing the Aussie Outback from top to bottom, and then cut east along the coast until we roll into our final destination – Sydney!

During the trip I plan to meet up with brain tumour support groups who I am contacting through IBTA and also talk to schools in order to raise awareness and funding for brain tumour research.

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I have been stunned and shocked at how desperately under-funded brain tumour research is and how much of a killer it is, particularly among young children and people under 40.

Henry Brydon – January 2010

To follow Henry on his epic adventure, you can visit his website www.theblazingsaddles.com

You can sponsor Henry at www.justgiving.com/henrybrydon/