



**March 10**

**Travel info - WPFG's 2007**

It's nearly time to start traveling. The packing's done, no doubt something forgotten, but hey 2 days to remember.

Going to try and update this as much as possible, not really sure how it works but whatever

**March 11**

**Race Program - WPFG's**

Just before the traveling day - Monday 12th (arrive 14th) - here's a list of time's/style and date of my race's (OZ date/times)

Saturday 17th March  
Criterium

Tuesday 20th March  
Time Trial

Thursday 22nd March  
Hill Climb

Saturday 24th March  
Sprints

Sunday 25th March  
Road Race

More details on the race(s) nearer the date/time of the respective event.

March 12

### Route and bits

Right travel day.....amazing how much domestic engineering you can do before the off.

Anyway route =

12th Mar -- Jer>Gatwick>Dubai>Bangkok (one 4 chan chan)>Sydney>Adelaide  
14th (local time)

I must warn people that this 'blog' could get a bit 'juicy', so if you easily offend take care reading through the text 😊

tfn.....

March 13

### Never travel with Emirate Airlines...

I was just hairs breath away from coming straight back home today.....

Why?.....well it started on the 12th March..and due to an 'incident' in Dubai, we were informed of a 3hr delay. Doesn't seem to bad, might be able to make that up..said the lady @ check in. Well no not really, left eventually @ 2330hrs...3 1/2hrs late...never going to make the connection @ 0905hrs the next morning...and we didn't.

But never mind must be a later flight I could catch..NOT!..arrived in Dubai @ 1000hrs, so what do you do? ask a rep of course..NOT, not a clue, no one to help anybody, which I hasten to add wasn't just my flight but every single flight coming into Dubai was affected, so you could imagine the mess that carried on.

Nobody was informed about anything, it was just one big bun fight..quite literally in 2 cases..no blood though....shame..and the poor lady that got trampled on when a dopey rep announced that another window was going to be opened to help (that'll make 4 then!!)...splat down she goes.

Anyway @ 1715hrs...yes 1715hrs I eventually got another flight, 24 hrs later (14th) and a hotel to stay in....and ITS A BLOODY DRY SHIP TO BOOT!!!!....that's the icing on the cake then!

Did get a voucher for food @ the airport....montys revenge occurred for a brief while..and yes its a standup and squat with a bloody good aim please, nice.....didn't miss though

They really need a good kick up the backside here (even in the squat position)..it's the first impressions that count.....don't think I need to tell you mine then!!!!

ttn

**March 16**

### **Arrival in The Oz State**

Right now where were we?....Ah yes a dry ship and needing to travel the next day.

So....after a nights sleep, and yes the hotel was Ok, we arrived back @ Dubai airport in the hope of catching a plane, and hopefully changing the connection from Syd to Ald. Really things couldn't go any worse, and to be fair they didn't...anybody tried to get into the airport, blimey never seen so many x-ray machines in my life! x3 before you even get into the terminal.

Fortunately I was already checked in....I say that because the queues were rather 'long'....my main concern? Yep the baggage, will I ever see that bike again....been there got the T shirt!!....changed the flight, only by queue jumping and lining up in First Class, well what can they say? b\*\*ger off.

Bit of shopping done...duty free don't you know!...this duty free is duty free, not the Jersey duty free..which = duty expensive. So flights called...6hrs followed by a 9hr jump...steady!!..

Watched a couple of movies on the first leg....James B and something, had food, as you do, not bad...arrived in Bangkok (chan chan), only 20min turn around, couldn't get off and walk about, never mind.....

Second leg, did a bit of work....the years training program actually....nice....not done this yet and I've sorted the year out :( ....didn't sleep, strange?

Again all over nice and easy, arrived Syd and the transfer was pain free, makes a change..temp 29...30 in Ald :(

Oh and yes the bags did arrive...shock horror...bit 'bashed' but after arriving in Ald and checking into hotel and making the bike up...no damage.

Did I mention hotel? Oh yes the one which gave my reservation away! Although not for long....a nice and gently stare seemed to do the trick, you wonder why you pay deposits...well not anymore.

So checked in, registered straight away, bit of a queue, but hey Paul B's found a pub right outside...nice right on the river. The others have arrived, Sue's shopping, and so's Andy...the latter has spent more!!

Couple of drinkies..food...nice...early nite and do the routes tomorrow (fri 16th)

Friday 16th.....routes done....not a lot in the legs...first race tomorrow...doh!...going to be a very fast race!!

Aims for race and rest of week....LEARN!!...COMPLETE...HANG ON ME CAP'S IS LOCKED ON !!!!! bugger.....ah off now, bloody technology! Tomorrows race is just a suck it and see, fast course, couple of tight bends, I shall just assess as I go, try not to lose it from the off...Andy's up before me, might just watch his race and see what's what.....

Ok opening bit @ the Oval...going in the stands, not the sheep pens !!!!!

tfn.....oh and its raining!!

## March 17

### 1st Race - Crit 40+1

Happy Paddy's Day everyone 🍀

Well first race done....(sat 17th).....the weathers picked up, nice cloudy'ish period for the race, around the 26 mark. Now by this start you may be wondering why he's talking about the weather? Well I missed the break!! Get the picture?..(racers will)...I shall go on.

Today's race was the Crit...40min + 1 lap (no sprints, just flat out...if you want)....I'll run through my cat first (as andy's still looking for his chain..doh!!)....any Ho...2 cat's ran together, which meant one of the groups get to wear a shower cap...nice...to identify the respective cat, our's was a nice shade of blue, fitted snugly...now a couple of questions arose b4 the race namely, if a group goes through (not yours) can you attach yourself on the back?...NO UCI rules!...now this is relevant, as you shall find out.....so our race is 40+1 the group behind 35+1, we start a minute ahead (which worked I suppose 'ish).....I watched the race before mine and saw people just dying out front..why? begs a question, maybe 3/4's of the way through...40min flat out is a long time out there.

So as per the norm, a game plan = 's >> 1. Hang on for dear life to see if things calm down, then progress on or 2. Just let them go.

Gun goes, not too bad, little bit of 'pressure' but nothing out of the way (couldn't be if I could stay there)...rule 1 never let a cap appear, or in other words let a break happen. Well this did, but I managed to stay on the back, with comfort (not the washing liquid!). 15mins in and I'm still there, the group was being lead by 2 guys from the same team, they just pressurised the last 4 corners, in other words tested out the opposition. Then this UCI rule appeared...the first 2 guys from the next cat appeared, now me being the law abiding person (not!) let them through and still kept a close distance, watching to see what the others do...well they jumped on the back of them. Attaching myself also onto the back I was still a bit concerned about being DQ'ed..so I dropped back a bit...OOP'S BIG MISTAKE...that's all it took, a cap appeared and I suddenly found myself detached (sorry Mr TW)...5m turned into 20m and Jonny no mates was stuffed..but hey keep the pressure on and someone might fall back and we could join forces and TT it back. Well that didn't happen, but a European cousin did appear from behind ('cuse me)...although his idea of work and my idea of work somewhat differed...he did 1m I did 1000...OK maybe it's a French thing....but I did get my revenge at the end (I think?)....

So continuing on and well basically dragging nobody back...(7up front I think)...a big group from the next cat appeared just before the start/finish line....now they are 35+1, us 40+1....so as they crossed the line the bell rang, sod the UCI rules, jumped on the back and received a tow round (they last lap)...and rounded the last bend to hear another bell, now that's ours...but my French cousin stopped after crossing the line.....me no stoppy, one more lap please + another guy, who we nearly caught, also stopped, so me thinks I got my own back on the frog...sorry continental cousin....but I'm not sure on the rules (TW?)...but my mind's clear, I did the distance.

The results are not out yet, but on the whole it wasn't as bad as I thought...maybe 10th?...not too bad for a non-sprinter.

So as mentioned b4...Andy's race didn't go quite as he wanted....(you see we have had a private bet, the highest placed in each's cat get's to choose a Bottle of wine and the lowest pays).....so Andy's race went like this.....Bang (gun goes off for start)...click clang click 1st corner his chain give's way.....a tear appeared in my eye.....after of course checking with the 'local rules' that if I just complete 1 lap I win the wine....caring sort of person aren't I.....the only consolation is that it happened then and not right @ the end of the race and in contention!.

Ok that's it.....I've got some wine choosing to do.....now did we set a limit?...better not try my luck too much, it could come back and bite me on the backside....

tfn.....

## **Crit update**

Well after all that 'effort' the other and as of this time.....me got no result due to a timing chip failure...wonderful...not!!

Although I have been informed that it 'well be rectified'.....UUUUmmmmm



## **March 19**

### **Cricket**

Oh and on a footnote....I hear that our 'professional cricketers' have been 'playing the field again'

Me? I'd have sent them home, paid for by themselves and strip them of ever playing for England again. Mr Freddy's done it b4 so I hear...get lost and go home !!

tfn.....rant over.....

## **Another mess**

Just a short blog this time, because as you might have guessed by the title things didnt go to well @ the second race - the TT.

Why? well surprise surprise another timing failure.

The crit results have been 'binned', in other words what you see is what you get, so I've got idea what happen..wonderful...and now to follow that yesterdays TT became another lottery to see who won what.

How the f\*\*k can you present medals with no times????? (and as of this time still no results have been published)

This setup is very amateur and considering people have paid a lot of money to get here it STINKS!!!! I'm not saying I might have won something, hell I know that I am no where near, but its the principle of it all...and on that note with the hill climb tomorrow.....me has finished racing, there really is no point putting 100% in and getting 0% back.....

tfn

## **March 21**

### **Slept on it.....**

Well having slept on it my thoughts are the same, I'll monitor the Hill Climb results watch the sprints and maybe, just maybe do the RR. But on that the RR

= All Females + Master A + Master B..all in a 5.3K circuit..how messy is that going to be with timing failures???

ttn

## March 23

### Updates

Well actually got result for the TT on Tuesday - 27.58.4 7th spot (65 o/all), I suppose its right, no way of knowing really.

Anyway things are looking up - got crapped on by several parrots this morning as I walked through the woods to the town - you see its not all bad!

Had another thought about racing again, and having 'calmed down a bit', I will be doing the sprints/RR on Sat/Sun respectfully, I mean what else could they do wrong? and to be honest if I think back to my aims - its to learn - so me learning!! me know me not going to place...so we take back all the reading's and assess from home...chilly home!!!...32 here, oops sorry..NOT NOT NOT!!!

On the TT race, that course would have made an excellent RR course, rough surface's, long straights and very undulating (spell check). It was a 'true 17.3k'

ttn.....

## March 26

### The end

So that's it for the games...all done. Raced the sprints on Saturday and the Road Race on Sunday. Needless to say the organisation was @ its bang up best..not!..but hey we now come to expect this.

Now it might seem that I'm bashing the organisers, but over the last couple of days it seems that the 'timing issue' and 'result's issue' are in the majority of sports (?). So this could mean that their software program needs updating or there is a 'serious' problem with the volunteer's. Unfortunately that is an issue that would require very delicate handling, for without volunteers you have no racing !! Is it time to become more professional? The games have moved on, maybe a review needs to be undertaken covering the whole of the setup of the Federation. I feel a letter coming on (constructive of course)....more later, this is my R&R time...

Anyway 'bout the races (sat/sun), the sprints were as predicted a little to fast for me, but there was mix up with how the heats were to be run, which did have an 'effect' on how I rode...but I surpose the result would have been the same..stuffed!

Road race Sunday? Well great weather (23) light wind (head on straight) good technical course, 10 laps....I'm waffling now.....only cause a made another mistake, let a gap appear...oops the elastic effect, never mind head down and TT for a bit, and pick up dropped riders to form a group and work together. Well it nearly worked, after 3 laps formed a group of 3 - off and through as fast as we could - began picking up the group in front (set off 2 minutes in front), took out a big pack from the next age group, they tried to join in (making a mess of our riding) but fortunately they didn't stick around, straight out the back door, 2 laps left ( i think, i say that because of what happened next) and now only me and a yank Team TT'ing, get towards the finishing line and the earlier age group are charging through to finish, and complete mess @ the finishing line, NO BELL FOR US (thats the mess) and the finishing pack in the way..although not for long, a serious raised voice form your's truly got them out of the way (sheepishly I might add)...so yes as we carried on I was blinkered on keeping the pace up, instead of looking @ my oddmeter (which would have told me that this was the last lap...well someone had to!!! the organisers weren't!!) Keeping the pace up the yank dropped back, I slowed to allow him back on, no point doing things on your own, but if I'd known that this was the last lap, me would have carried on. So down to the back straight again waiting for him to latch on, and expecting the bell, we continued to go through and off....and.....out pops the chequed flag !!!!..and who's in front?...the yank! oh great another cock-up. Now you might be wondering, as I was why the yank didn't mention that this was the last lap, seeing that we had worked together for the best part of 7 laps, and make it a free for all or cross the line together.....but hey that's racing...good job there's no other events! pay back time :)

Anyway no idea where I finished..nothing new there then! maybe in a week or 2...finished 6th in the sprints by the way.

now R&R.....tfn

## March 27

### Captains Log

Well as in all good Star Trek ending's the skipper pop's in a log...here's mine....

**Star date** - Now (anyone worked out that bit?)

The main aim of this trip was to learn, not just the races, but about all of the 'trip'. So broken down into sections -

With the main question being 'Have you learn't from this experience?' that would =

**Travel - Yes**

You have to experience problems 1st hand so as to 'appreciate' the difficulties involved when things go a little 'wrong'

Adelaide Culture - Yes

Oz Customs - Yes

Adelaide - Yes

Its way of life, its day to day living, how it run's itself,  
Tourism/Finance/Winery's/Sports/Social Events (not all its eggs in 1 basket!)

The Games themselves - Yes

The racing side has obviously taught me a thing or 2 (thats not hard) The organization (which has been documented before) has again open my eyes to the problems that can occur (as a footnote and on hearing comments made @ a breakfast meeting, it seems that a 'problem' might have been right @ the begining with the inputing of competitors details, with some being entered into the wrong cat's, therefore on completing a race the details were going to be wrong, so therefore the lesson there is check things right from the start, not that this was a punters fault, its an original error)

The venues were brilliant, getting to events and the travel network 100%, yet you might say that I 'had a go or 2' @ the organizers, yes that's correct, but the comments, were in my view, based on fact not fiction, 1st hand viewing. The main problem you have is if someone moans for the sake of moaning, in other words has no justification, no rhyme or reason...just moan's, now those end up talking to themselves.....

Yes I will be putting pen to paper, but in a constructive manner, and this I know will be welcomed by the organization, because this is how you learn how to improve or 'defend yourself'. It reminds me of the Fawlty Towers program, where dear Basil was serving up food that really wasn't to clever and the guest's just didn't want to complain.....well 1 did, an american fellow, now that was good!!!!

Overall View -

Adelaide 100% worth a visit, how its kept its culture in the changing face of the world. Did you know that you can only colour your premises a 'light tan'. Now thats makes a big difference, no multi colouring here then!

tfn.....off 2 buy lottery tickets now (\$21m this week), if you don't hear from me again.....cheers...hic hic....

March 30

### **World Swim Champs - Melbourne**

Just a footnote.....and its sad that I'm thinking like this but, I really do hope that the American swimmers are 'clean'. I had this same feeling about Mr F.L. and his cycling.

You can beat world records..but by 2 seconds??...when you only had just beaten the previous mark by .30 (which was still waiting to be confirmed...the reason?...awaiting drugs results...oop's).

And also a swimmer who has never swam a distance (50m Backstroke) goes out and beats the world record when she failed to make the final of her 'distance' the 100m Back.

I'm sorry my mind is going on one.....

April 07

### **Times Up**

Hi Ho,

Time to travel back...it's been good...and Mr. Munns winning back in Jersey...the form book continues....

tfn.....

April 17<sup>th</sup>

### **Summary and time to think.....**

As a footnote and on reflection Emirates Airlines did do a good job in re-routing everyone, its just so annoying that the 'PR' was missing. But as mentioned before all of the above is a learning curve.

Continue biking? Yes I think so, got a couple of things in the pipeline for the rest of the year which will take me up to October (Jersey Marathon) and then train during winter for possibly a bike race season '08 in preparation for '09 in Vancouver (Or an Ironman!! '08)

## Courses

## Time Trial



