

DAY 1 Calais-Geneva

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 24th 2005

The big day arrived and after hooking up with our European riders the tension was palpable as the riders lined up in Calais for the mass start. A wave of the flag from the Cannonball grid-girls and several thousand horsepower was unleashed on an unsuspecting France. The first ever Cannonball Bike Run was underway!

As the pack disappeared into the distance the rescue vehicle was brought into action unexpectedly early as the unfortunate Robert Labio was unable to start his bike with a flat battery - after a quick pitstop for new parts he was back off in hot pursuit.

Problems also struck the number 15 Ian Lonsdale who lost the entire contents of his back-pack including his map and mobile phone and gave us all a scare before he finally showed up at 11pm.

No such problems for the other Cannonballers who, once accustomed to navigating the route pressed on hard into the Alps and arrived to enjoy a meal and a beer or two at the fantastic Crown Plaza hotel in Geneva.

Early honours went to the father and son team of Stuart and Graham Martin who arrived first and are the current leaders in overall classification. Congratulations go out to them - they'll be the benchmark for tomorrow. Can they hold onto their lead?



Chad lights one up off the start-line...



cannonball BIKE RUN

DAY 1: CALAIS - GENEVA

**Gentlemen,
Start Your Engines**



RANDOM QUOTES:

"Around 10 bikes passed me after I slowed to 100mph just to see what they were happy travelling at."

120-130 was deemed the appropriate speed. Not one to miss a nice overtaking opportunity, I wound the gixer up and passed 6 or 7 fellow 'ballers at 175mph then tucked in behind the leaders..."



PODIUM POSITIONS AFTER DAY 1

- =1st Number 19 Stuart Martin
- =1st Number 18 Graham Martin
- 3rd Number 36 Paul Hosier