



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Team Wiggle Tandem first racing tandem to Paris

Team Wiggle Tandem riders David Harmon and Jeremy Hastings made history over the weekend, becoming the first tandem ever to compete in a race from London to Paris.

The pairing, who have been preparing for an assault on a series of road records over the next 18 months were part of the elite racing group on the 2010 London-Paris Cycle Tour which started from Imber Court in Esher on Thursday and raced towards Paris over 3 days.

Their tandem, known as Rocket 1 had been stripped from time trial trim and set up for road racing to comply with the regulations of the event providing a useful shakedown for the machine which continues to function as the working prototype for Rocket 2, an advanced all-carbon tandem already on the drawing board of famed manufacturer Terry Dolan.

"It's a challenge piloting a tandem at speed in a bunch," commented Jez Hastings who's job at the front of the bike was full on for all 3 days, "you have to 're-learn' how to ride. The braking points are different, it's longer to integrate in the bunch and you lose out dramatically on the steep ascents."

Having had the disappointment of seeing a record attempt window slip by earlier in the month due to adverse headwinds Team Wiggle Tandem were pleased to get a competitive run out amongst some very good opposition.

"I think it was crucial for us to get this one under our belts." Added stoker David Harmon. "Over the past few weeks we have struggled to get quality time on the tandem, time that allows us to pinpoint where the weaknesses lie either technically or in our riding."

Harmon is still fighting to regain top form and shed excess weight having been sidelined after a training crash in February left him with a torn achilles;

"I should be good for the next window of opportunity to have a go at the record from Pembroke to Yarmouth. I will be riding everyday on the Tour de France and with former professionals Graham Jones and Rolf Sorensen for company, I don't think there will be many places to hide!"

Dubbed 'the professional event for amateurs' the London-Paris Cycle Tour uniquely accommodates racing with leisure riders in ability groups across 3 days. With jerseys for best climber, sprinter and overall as well as a women's race, the event has attracted riders of the calibre of Stephen Roche, Sean Kelly, Magnus Backstedt and Scott Sunderland as well as a fist full of celebrities such as Nigel Mansell, Will Carling and James Cracknell over its 7 year history.

As well as the tandem, TWT also fielded masters athlete Peta McSharry who took the fight for the women's overall jersey to former GB rider Tanya Slater (Team SiS) ending up on the podium in what was her first London-Paris Cycle Tour as a competitor.

McSharry, who gained colours for South Africa in triathlon has only recently taken up road racing and has capped off an extraordinary month which saw her 1st vet/master home in the inaugural Tour Series wome's GP in Stoke, 14th in the Smithfield Nocturne and top 3 in London-Paris."

ENDS

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[www.teamwiggletandem.com](http://www.teamwiggletandem.com)

e-mail: [richard@project7racing.com](mailto:richard@project7racing.com)

