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Bruce Home Find Friends

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**Bruce Ryan** added 2 new photos — with Eleanor Emberson at **Stonefield Castle Hotel**.  
May 25 at 8:00pm · Lochgilphead · 🌐

Not sure I posted yesterday's cycle map, so here it is:  
<http://cyclemeter.com/c6c5a8e04fa72bae/Cycle-20140524-0917?r=e>. All hot and sunny, so we were happy lizard scum:  
<http://m.youtube.com/watch?v=vpmgO4BTNCc&feature=kp>

A change today. It was drizzling and cold when we woke, so rubber wallies were worn by those feet that had them, and an extra layer went between my LifesCycle jersey and jacket of flatulence. Mistake! Pulling out of Oban was 3 miles of steep uphill and the sun came out. Both of us were tired: I'd not slept until at least 4am due to a head full of cold and Elly has had \*\*what seems to me\*\* to be months if overwork. Oh, and breakfast provided by the hotel was tea or coffee and granola bars. What the hairy ....? Where was the leguminous lumps in fruity sauce to get my motor running?

And there were hills, then there were hills, and then there were more hills, interspersed with drops which were fairly enjoyable when we could see what was at the bottom and so dare to let go. Memo to self: carry spare brake pads in future. Memo to anyone who is concerned by that sentence: I've checked: both Lev and Fidel have plenty of pad left now, but that won't always be true.

We took 3 1/2 hours to do the 37 miles from Oban to Lochgilphead:  
<http://cyclemeter.com/c6c5a8e04fa72bae/Cycle-20140525-0924?r=x>. For once I'm not moaning about the average speed: there was lots of cycling to do. I will complain about what I packed. Next time: \*\*one\*\* pannier with just a change of shorts, arse-cream and glucose, and post home presents where I buy them. Ah well, it was better than front \*\*and\*\* rear sandals, with sandals strapped to the top of the rear panniers, and a full frame-bag!

Lochgilphead appeared to be closed apart from a twee tartan hotel/bar, run by Manuel's Scottish grandfather, and selling nowt but tea, coffee, alcohol and cakes. Tea, coffee and cakes were duly consumed, along with a granola bar from last nigh's stay, and then we started thinking about pushing on to tonight's stay, in Stonefield Castle hotel, a bit north of Tarbert.

The route apparently skirts the side of Loch Fyne, so had to be flat surely? Er, no, undulating, with lots of blind twists and peaks, and many knob-ends at the wheel. In particular, we were overtaken very closely by a transit van carrying canoes: the driver deserves to have them all shoved up his or her orifices, sideways, without lube, and with salt and chilli powder. It seems that some drivers don't think there might be two cyclists riding in tandem, so skirt around me and then start to pull in, then realise Elly is in front of me. I think I need a big sign reading 'there's two of us, gits'. But I bet someone would remove the comma.

We only got one bit of rain: a heavy shower about two miles from here. I didn't get wet enough to need to stop for overtrousers, and Elly was already wearing hers. (Ladies do prophylaxis, Bruce does "de'il take the hindmost", probably because it's usually him.)

So here's the cyclemeter map from Lichgilphead to Stonefield:  
<http://cyclemeter.com/c6c5a8e04fa72bae/Cycle-20140525-1351?r=e>. 12 miles in 57 minutes. Oops! We were greeted by with shelter for Lev and Fidel, options on FOOD, drinks (no alcohol yet) and a couple of hour's horizontality before dinner.

Ignore the cynical tone above: I've actually enjoyed today, apart from neither of us remembering to add novocaine to the arse-cream

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