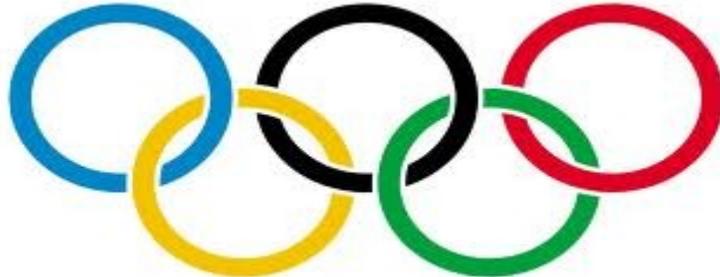


TEAM CRRG - OLYMPIANS ALL !!!!



Over the past few weeks, we have had to endure all the coverage of feckin “Team GB” and their medal winning in the London 2012 games. But we have our own “Medal winners” in **Team CRRG**. No, not super athletes like Katie Taylor or Usain Bolt. More like competitors in the *Special Olympics* !..... first we had Rob failing to spot SIX other bikes with headlights on, Hi-Vis jackets, flashing lights, indicators on etc. as he sped on past the Balbriggan exit. Next we had Dermot take us on our lovely clean bikes through an Olympic-sized pool in the shopping centre. Then we had Mark2 in a hissy-fit, claiming he had lost his bike keys when they were in his pocket all the time! Gary was getting ready to head off on his bike at the harbour in Carlingford forgetting that he had left his back pack in the middle of the road. And the boxes on Paul’s new Kawi were causing him terrible grief and upset as the simple locking mechanism is “Child Proof” but kept Paul busy for over an hour! Derek turned up for a bike spin dressed like he was going out for dinner at a 5 star restaurant!! And despite marking his gloves “R” and “L” to indicate which hand, Mark1 took ages to put them on and on several occasions he kept the rest of the “athletes” waiting ages before heading off. And then there was Mick who went into a sudden huff after coffee at Cotters in Collon ([note the illiteration there???](#)) and sped off on his own not telling anyone he was going!

I think I’ll get my friends in the Mogalumba tribe to cast me some Gold, Silver and Bronze CRRG medals.....I already have a good idea who the “GOLD” medal winners would be.....



But apart from the above incidents it was a really enjoyable spin. In fact, a few lads have said it was probably the best spin of 2012 (personally, I enjoyed the Belvedere House picnic trip!). Fair play to all the group – Mark1, Mark2, Derek, Gary, Paul and myself. Everyone arrived on time at HQ at Bewleys and we just had to wait a few more minutes for Rob who had to travel all the way from Laois. Still, it gave us time to admire Paul's brand new Kawasaki Z1000SX (with luggage). It's a beauty and we all wish Paul the very best of luck with it and safe riding. As we were running later than planned, I rang Mick who was to link in with us at Balrothery and Dermot who would be waiting at Dundalk. We all met up at the re-arranged times with no problem but still no sign of Rob who had zoomed past us on the M1 instead of taking the Balbriggan exit. Dermot took us to the Park Café in the shopping centre in Dundalk. While having our reasonably priced and tasty breakfast, Rob rang back to say he was already up in Carlingford! We finished breakfast and headed off again with Dermot showing us a route which avoided Dundalk town centre. We rode along some fabulous roads and were soon in Carlingford and spotted Rob at the harbour. After some photo shoots, a climb up to the castle and being chatted-up by three local gurlies, we headed for a coffee in Carlingford. It was really warm at this stage and I was sorry I hadn't brought my shorts..... We got chatting to Terry – a bloke on another BMW R1200RT like Mark1's – they are so *common*. He took us up on our offer to join us for the return trip via Ardee, Collon and Slane. On the way, Dermot brought us on a fabulous spin through the Cooley Mountains. The views were spectacular, especially in the sunshine. We got chatting to another nice bloke, Dave, on yet another BMW GS like Mark2's – they are even more *common*!! He took our contact details and may well join us on future spins.

We had a quick coffee stop at Collon before heading home via the N2 Ashbourne Road and then on to the M50. It had been a fantastic day – a good turnout of 9 riders (plus Terry on the way back), brilliant roads, great venues, terrific scenery, warm, dry and sunny weather... and Gary paid for my breakfast. And we may have picked up two new members for the Group.

Looking forward to the next one already.

'til then, ride safely and check your disc lock.

Alan