Cliff Jones

In 2005, Cliff Jones began a journey round Britain on a unicycle, a bike with only one wheel. He had already made a documentary film about his experiences travelling round Europe in a 50-year-old car. He was mad about motor sport and had a job building racing car engines. To save money, Cliff rode to work in London on an old bicycle, which he also used to go to France on holiday. 'That trip opened my eyes,' he says. 'I decided to do a tour of Britain by bike.'

Cliff didn't want a normal touring bike, and he knew he wanted to build one himself. 'The craziest bicycle I could think of was a unicycle, so I went to a factory to see how they are made.' After one false start in 2004, when he had to turn back because of a knee injury, he finally set out in 2005. He was away for four months, and travelled over 8,500 km.

The best bit of the trip was arriving in Wales and seeing Mount Snowdon. 'Although I met cyclists who could easily ride up mountains on their bikes, which I couldn't do, I never regretted my unicycle. The further away from London I got, the more amazed people seemed by it.' His worst moment came when he had to drink some dirty water from a stream. A serious fever kept him in bed in hospital for five long days. He was determined not to give up and go back home before he had completed his challenge, but found it hard to carry on because he felt so weak. Yet despite all this, Cliff now says, 'If I could afford it, I would like to do something similar again.'

21 What is the writer trying to do in this text?
- A advise people to take adventure holidays
- B explain a rather unusual choice of transport
- C suggest the benefits of a special vehicle
- D persuade people to travel long distances

22 What made Cliff realise he wanted to cycle round Britain?
- A touring Europe in an old car
- B visiting a unicycle factory
- C attending motor races abroad
- D taking his bike to another country

23 When Cliff met other cyclists in the mountains, he was
- A anxious to get away from them.
- B satisfied with his own type of bicycle.
- C jealous of what they were able to do.
- D surprised by their attitude towards him.

24 What was Cliff's biggest problem during the trip?
- A He fell ill for nearly a week.
- B He had to go home to rest.
- C He wanted to finish his trip early.
- D He took too long to get to one place.

25 What might Cliff say after his trip?

A
My aim was to get to the top of Mount Snowdon, so I was disappointed not to reach Wales.

B
I'm already building the unicycle for my next trip. It's going to be the latest model so I can ride up mountains.

C
I was happy when I managed to get started at the second attempt. Fortunately, my knee didn't give me any more trouble.

D
I'm lucky that I have plenty of money. That means I can set off on another trip whenever I like.

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