

John Klondike



Diary of a TV presenter

Doing the Speight's Coast to Coast as a competitor is one thing, but working on the event as a television presenter presents its own set of challenges, both physical and mental, and then there's the nudity!

So here's my diary from this years one day World Championship event, hopefully it will provide some insight into how we managed to go 'coast to coast' and overcome our own obstacles to provide eight hours of live coverage and some coverage of the two day event.

One important point to remember is how tough it is

to get images from a camera on the ground, to a helicopter, up to a small plane circling, then to an outside broadcast unit sitting on Sumner Beach, then its makes it to TV sets, all with massive mountains and valleys to contend with.

Saturday 5 February 2005

1.30am

After trying to ignore the snoring of my hotel room

companion (Steve Gurney) for almost an hour I head downstairs to reception and put on my best pleading expression hoping the night manager will feel sorry for me.

"I have to be up in a few hours and I haven't had any sleep - we're doing the TV and at this stage I'll sleep through my own broadcast - do you have a spare room I could crash in - for free," I pleaded.

Night Manager Cory from the Kingsgate Hotel in Greymouth - thanks again Cory, a life saver - found me a room, chucked me the key and off I went to get some much needed sleep.

4.30am

Alarm goes off - so soon already! I'm sure I'm not the only one who feels they have just gone to sleep - except, I have! I tried to be as organised as possible so the previous night had washed the Sunkist shirt we had to wear in the shower and hoped it would dry overnight - had worn it during filming bits of the two day event on the Friday and it had got to 39 degrees at Klondike Corner - and had actually shaved the night before, so was ready to roll out of bed onto the floor.

4.40am

Get off floor and turn light on, find clothes - oh, I didn't have any! I must have gone down to reception naked. Oh no, there are my boxer shorts and a T shirt - that was lucky.

4.45am

Head back to the room I was sharing with Steve - he is



John, Debbie and Steve at the start of the 2 day competition.