

THE **Splash**

20p

WIN!

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Thought for the day: Good luck in your new job, Garrod!

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... once-in-lifetime Manchester trip to meet Garrod 'Hitman' Ashworth



Wheel hero Garrod's astonishing moment of Tour de France triumph.

Blundering commuter's Tour triumph

HAPLESS commuter Garrod Ashworth scooped a stage victory in the Tour de France – after suffering a memory loss while cycling to work!

Welsh-born Ashworth cycles every morning to City-based [company name here] – but recently went missing, sparking concern for his safety among family and friends when no one could raise the Young Persons Co-ordinator.

It was Ashworth's bewildered New Zealand-raised wife, Kylie, who solved the riddle of her missing husband – after spotting him on Sky Sports, leading the field in the Tour de France.

"At first I couldn't believe it was him," said Kylie, who wed Ashworth in a Wellington ceremony last year. "Yet the more I looked, the surer I became – but of course, that didn't answer the question of what the bloody hell he was doing there!"

Even keen cyclist Ashworth has been unable to shed much light on the extraordinary passage of events leading up to his victory in the 231.5km Pforzheim-to-Gerardmer stage of the world's blue ribbon cycling event.

"All I can remember is thinking how much I loved being on my bike," Ashworth said last night. "Everything went blank after that. The next I knew I was flanked by support cars and being cheered on by wild crowds. It's an utter mystery."



Bewildered Wife Kylie.

Man left reeling by Guinness record-setting confab

MEETING LASTS 5 YEARS

WORLD
EXCLUSIVE!

Special report by DUNCAN DISORDERLY
A CITY CHARITY WORKER has told how he has spent the past five years in the same meeting, after an innocent remark on his first day spiralled into a round-the-table powwow of biblical proportions.

The man – who wishes to be known only as Garrod X – works as a Young Persons Co-ordinator at [company name here], an organisation that helps disadvantaged kids.

Garrod X said last night: "My job involves showcasing young people's talents. I suggested I met with colleagues who'd be helping me fulfil my role, as I felt that refining my areas of responsibility would be a good starting point."

Spinning

But Garrod's head was sent spinning as hours rolled into days, and days into weeks.

"I didn't say anything at first – it was difficult, being the new boy – but when we entered the second week, I did wonder when I would be getting out of that room."

When Garrod did pluck up the courage to ask when he might be allowed back to his desk, he sparked a month-long brainstorm on desk procurement policies.

"After that I decided that the best thing to do was to just keep my peace," said the Wales-born Ricky Hatton look-a-like. "When we passed the six-month mark I'd long stopped planning exit contingencies – one month blurred into the next and that just became my job."

Liverpool FC fanatic Garrod adds: "When the meeting did finally draw to a close people just got up and left, like nothing had happened. I sat there wondering what on earth I was expected to do now."

But stunned Garrod didn't stick around



Meeting of minds Garrod 'X' (centre) celebrates with colleagues after the record-breaking meeting finally ends.

to find out. "I'd only just sat at my desk for the first ever time when I got an email inviting me to another meeting, to 're-visit our findings'.

"I didn't want to lose another five years, and luckily, landed another job, as participation officer at [company name]."

A business associate of Garrod X, Guy Eaton – managing director of design and marketing specialists Rubbaglove – said the meeting would stand Garrod in good stead for his career: "It shows that he's got stickability – and that's a vital trait in the world of education marketing."