

## Retro-Man cleans house on Terrible Two

Toss that trendy lycra in the trash. Lose the latest clip pedals. Put that carbon-fiber wonder bike out on the lawn at your next garage sale. Retro-Man, in the guise of Eric House, is here to show you that the rider makes the bike and not the other way around.

A rookie entrant, House breezed through the 1992 TT in 13:08, leading all the way, to easily cover a ravaged field of over 40 riders. Eric, nattily attired in a long-sleeve, oxford-cloth business shirt and sporting a swell little fanny pack, rode to victory on an ancient Univega beater with leather-strap, rat trap pedals, funky reflectors, and a pump held on by that time-honored favorite: string. This is not a sneer at his equipment, but rather a tip of the hat to a great rider, and to the fact that dollars, technology, and style don't count for nearly as much as ability, stamina, and spirit.

On a beautiful (?) day, with the official temperature in Cloverdale at 106° and the unofficial readings on the bake-oven blacktop of Skaggs Springs at least 10° hotter, numerous riders who wouldn't have been caught dead on Eric's bike were instead caught as-good-as dead on their Kestrels and Merlins. The TT lived up to its brutal reputation, as only 20 of the 44 starters made the 10:00 pm cut-off and only 22 finished at all. Nine more hopefuls had registered but were no-shows, perhaps coming down with a last-minute dose of sanity. In contrast to those suffering and wilting behind him, House seemed relaxed, cheerful, and cool at every stop and looked at the end as if he had just tooled down to the corner store for a quart of milk. An awesome ride, Eric...*Bravissimo!* See you next year.

The other great story of the day (night) was at the other end of the field. Bruce Pauly and Marv Rensink—both former top five finishers—were sharing a tandem and doing fairly well when Rensink became too dehydrated and nauseated to continue near Fort Ross. (The 16,000 steep feet of the TT have never been a good match for the big two-seaters, and this year was no exception, with the only other tandem bailing out at lunch.) Pauly, left without a captain at the base of the infamous Fort Ross climb, made the gutty—some said crazy—decision to move up a seat and ride the tandem in alone, over some of the toughest hills on the course and into the gathering gloom...nearly 50 miles of solitary punishment. Bruce's challenge was compounded by the fact that the bike had the shifters mounted on the stoker's bar-ends, necessitating yoga-like contortions to change gears.

Back at headquarters, many thought he should have been pulled, but after speaking directly with Bruce via radio (thanks to the radio team), the ride director allowed him to continue. Finally, just after 11:00 pm, with SRCC sag Beverly Turney patiently lighting his way with her van, he rolled in to hugs from his lost partner Marv and cheers from the handful of supporters who had stuck it out to the end to see if could really do it. He really could, and for his plucky lunacy, Bruce gets the 1992 TT True Grit-No Brains Award.

Other notable accomplishments: 1990 winner Tom Davies and Chris Richards finishing equal second; Steve Matson, struggling in just behind them, despite doing the last 30 miles with double vision, numb arms, and total exhaustion; Rod Mowbray, one of the three founding fathers of the TT, returning to the scene of his misspent youth for a strong seventh...second behind House at the halfway lunch stop; Don Gray, the one-armed recumbent rider, impressing us with his courage before bonking on Skaggs.

# Terrible Two - Official Finishers

1992

Eric House	13:08
Tom Davies	13:36
Chris Richards	13:36
Steve Matson	13:48
Kevin Hodge	13:58
David Signor	13:58
Rod Mowbray	14:06
Curt Ferguson	14:15
Tim Morken	14:27
Warren Havens	14:43
Keith White	14:53
Jim Pyatt	15:03
Steve Marsh	15:08
Lawrence Pon	15:37
Brett Hendrix	15:44
Robert Robinson	15:45
Bob Rugo	15:49
Rick Hodgson	16:11
Manny Molina	16:11
Elizabeth Galler	16:30
Bruce Pauly	16:58
Bill Bliss	17:03
44 starters; 20 finishers (+2)	