



## HOGAN'S HEROES

### MISSION...

To conquer the mighty wheelie!

### PRECONCEPTION

I hope I'm not beyond help, I really want to crack this without cracking any bits of me.

### REALITY

I am now addicted to wheelies and can't wait to progress to the advanced course.

### WHAT I LEARNED

Exactly what the day was intended for. I became comfortable with the feeling of the front coming up.

### MEDAL OF HONOUR

#### PAUL MILLHOUSE:

Riding bikes on one wheel since before I was born, Paul is a lot older than he looks. He used to sell furniture for a living. Wheelies and stunt riding was a hobby that Paul worked hard enough at to be able to develop into a business.



#### COSTS:

£165 per person, group-booking discounts available

#### LOCATION:

Finmere near Buckingham and Long Marston near Stratford Upon Avon

#### CONTACT:

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WHEELIES. EVERYONE WANTS to do them because they're very, very cool. Fact.

I do bad ones very easily so it was about time I sorted them out. I went up to Long Marston to meet Paul Millhouse, owner of [www.iwanttowheelie.co.uk](http://www.iwanttowheelie.co.uk). He runs a number of wheelie courses including 'an introduction to wheelies'. Ideal for complete beginners who have the same goal as me: to be able to wheelie.

The main aim of the day is to get used to the feeling of picking up the front wheel. After this course you can come back on ones that cover advanced techniques but today was just about getting the confidence to hoist the front in first gear and keep it up.

Paul's teaching methods are fantastic. Within 10 minutes of getting there, I and my new Welsh wheelie wannabe mates were getting a feel for the bikes, and getting over the 'fear of death' (Paul's words) people have when first trying to wheelie. The school uses Fazer 600s with two-stage anti-flip devices. The first reduces the power by half; the second cuts full power and drops the front end.

Paul teaches the throttle technique: first gear, jogging speed, hard on the throttle for about five metres – then you shut off, which compresses the front suspension, and as the forks rebound you crack the throttle open again and the front comes up. Simple. There are other techniques, such as using

the clutch to pop it up and the back brake to hold it there, but Paul feels that to start with this method is the easiest way to learn. I started quite slowly and it took four or five attempts before the front grudgingly gave in and skipped off the deck.

One thing that really impressed me about the day was the way that Paul helped everyone relax. Imagine one of your mates teaching you how to wheelie, only your mate is a proper stunt monkey. The perfect mix of piss-taking and encouragement. Before we broke for lunch I was able to crack some quality mingers. It felt fantastic to be looking over the bars at the horizon and not be able to see the road under the front wheel (and still be in control).

In the afternoon I felt like I was making some real progress. As my technique improved Paul called me in to adjust the angle on my anti flip, which allowed me to 'get it up' higher and for longer...

My day at Paul's wheelie school finished with me cracking 60-70 metre wheelies at the same time as screaming my head off; a lifetime ambition realised (the wheelies, not the screaming).

Paul claims that if you can't wheelie 25 metres by the end of the day you can have another day for free. Everyone there on the day easily went further than that. He teaches around 600 people a year and has never had to give a free day back to anyone.



**Top:** Hogan realises a life's ambition  
**Above:** anti-flip sensor cuts the ignition if it goes up too high