



#5



1990 MASURI STAINLESS STEEL GRILL
Helmets stayed relatively unchanged after the early World Series models, until Masuri introduced the first stainless steel grill. The grill was then fitted to cricket's first lightweight adjustable helmet, which became one of the most popular helmets among first-class cricketers.

THE SPARRING SESSION MARTIN DREYER

short, sharp and not that serious

2006 G4 Challenge winner

How do you introduce yourself to people?

Sheepishly, as a sportsman. It's a tough one, because when they ask what sport I get a funny look because they can't believe I make a living out of adventure racing.

Why do you enjoy adventure races?

Ahhh, the challenge. The race itself is always completely different as there are always new routes or venues. It's definitely refreshing.

What are the key elements to be successful?

You've got to have experience in multi-sports – kind of a Jack of all trades, master at none. You also have to be mentally strong because things are going to happen in a race, whether it's adverse weather, punctures or injuries.

Your worst experience on a race?

It was during last year's World Championships in Newfoundland in Canada, my first big adventure race. I was sick on the start line with terrible food poisoning. If it wasn't for the fact that I was in a team that worked hard to get there with getting sponsors and training, then I would have pulled out.

Getting to the G4 Challenge, you beat two others to be South Africa's representative in the qualifying event. How was that?

I felt confident going in, but also quite vulnerable because I had just done the Dusi Canoe Marathon days before and I hadn't been on my bike for four months. For the two months after the event I really focused on

improving my navigation and GPS abilities as well as getting on the bike.

During the actual challenge you guys raced in Thailand, Laos, Brazil and Bolivia; which country did you enjoy visiting the most?

I'd say Bolivia – mainly because my prize was waiting at the end of the leg. Other than that the exposure to the mountain people, who live at 4 000m in extremely cold conditions with no electricity, is humbling. They live so simply, using llamas for their meat and llama dung as a fuel source. I couldn't live like that. I'd need a few comforts.

Which was the toughest leg?

For me it was Laos, mostly because I tore an abductor muscle on the inside of my leg. I was lucky because it didn't limit my running too much and the medical team strapped it regularly and gave me painkillers during the week to deal with it.

What was a normal day like?

We'd break camp at 7:00 and get our six activities for the day, which we would locate with 4x4s. The day's course would be between 200-300km in the direction of our next camp. You accumulate points for each activity finished, but forfeit points if you get to camp late – I only twice did all six activities. The best thing to do is plan your route to maximise your strongest events, so after my injury I was able to steer away from running a



bit. Other activities included mountain-biking, horseriding and kayaking.

What car did you drive before winning the Range Rover?

On and off I'd drive a sponsored Citroen car while my other car is a Ford Escort Station-wagon – I just got it priced the other day to sell it. It's a sin, with all the memories I have in that car I can only get R20 000.

Does anything scare you?

Mmm, in general life it is that I'll have to work when I should be retired. Every year I tell my friends I gotta get a real job but then I always do another Dusi or another event overseas.

Finally, what's your ultimate adventure?

I'd like to do a Madagascar expedition. No one has ever paddled around it before. I'm a paddler first, so the adventure on the high seas would be fun, especially catching fish then braa-ing at night and seeing the beaches.

THE THIN EDGE OF THE WEDGE

The latest innovations in sports tech

OBO FaceOff Mask

Hockey defenders have been crying out for something like this ever since they've had to guard the goalposts during short corners armed with nothing more than shinpads and a gum guard. The triple air-vented, high-density polyethylene shell (they say it's unbreakable) is designed to reduce frontal and side impacts, especially over the bridge of the nose, eye sockets and cheek bones. The OBO FaceOff mask can be strapped on or off in seconds, and looks pretty mean too.



The OBO FaceOff mask retails for **R490**. Contact OBO SA on (053) 832 0940 for store locations.

Elmer Golf M1 Putter

There are many solutions to myriad putting problems, but the M1 Putter might just be the first club with the capability to solve most of those pitfalls by itself. The secret lies in its adaptability – lie angle, heel/toe weighting and lateral balance can all be adjusted. The M1 Putter can also be set for left- or right-handers, and fear not... the technology is legit, and R&A and USGA approved.



The M1 Putter retails for **R1 895** and is available at www.elmergolf.com