



OUT IN THE WILDS: Chris had to deal with terrible roads and even dirt tracks on his travels around South America

Motorcycling doctor Chris 'Tigger' Targett is back home after a 20,000-mile ride around South America to raise money for emergency medical charity Magpas.

The accident and emergency specialist expects to raise at least £6,000 through the ride – and is planning a major ball later this year to bring in more money.

Chris, 34, from Sawtry, has also acquired a bride-to-be after going down on one knee at Heathrow to propose to girlfriend Sam Lyon, 32, when he set off on his marathon ride earlier this year.

He even had to treat himself after coming off his bike and breaking two ribs and was fortunate enough to have his stethoscope with him so he could check his lungs.

Chris had been desperate to take on a motorcycling challenge since he was a teenager, but it was only after he decided to raise money for Magpas that he found out that Sam owed her life to the charity.

She was badly burned and her brother killed in a road accident when she was 7.

He originally intended to take in parts of Europe, Africa and India with the ride, but the logistics proved impossible, so decided to cover the same distance in South America instead.

During the 84-day ride he made 41 border crossings, visited 13 countries, got through eight tyres and had seven punctures – with an eighth while on his way to the Magpas headquarters in St Ives on his trusty KTM 990 sports touring bike.

He was stopped by the police six times and had four crashes, including coming off his bike on the edge of a 400-metre precipice.

Chris said: "I have adored the trip, I have adored the difficulties and I have adored being a bit of Magpas to do it.

"It has been a sacrifice, but that is part of the attraction of doing something like this."

He was left in agony when he broke two ribs when his bike ran into a giant pothole.

Chris said: "I had enough time when I was in the air to think 'this is going to hurt'. Fortunately I had my stethoscope on me so I could check myself in case I'd punctured a lung."

He has organised a charity ball for Magpas at Chilford Hall, Linton, on October 19.

Information about the ride and the ball is available at tiggerstravels.org.