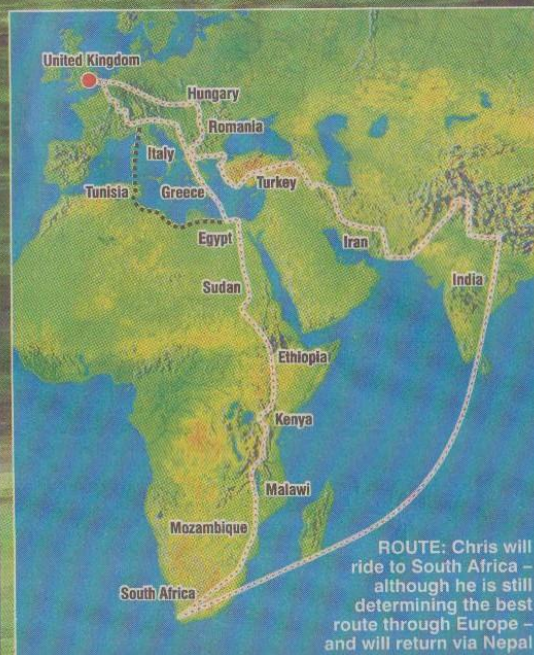


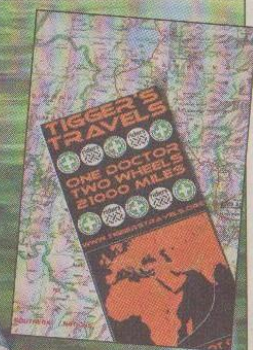
Chris takes on the 21,000-mile bike challenge



ROUTE: Chris will ride to South Africa – although he is still determining the best route through Europe – and will return via Nepal



Pictures: Duncan Lamont 776982



JULIAN MAKEY

A DOCTOR is taking on a gruelling world motorcycle challenge for the charity which saved his girlfriend 24 years ago following a crash which claimed her brother's life.

Chris Targett decided to raise money for Magpas before he knew of his girlfriend's tragic past.

It was only when Chris had decided to take on the challenge that Sam's mother revealed the truth of her daughter's fight for life.

Yesterday Sam met the medic who saved her for the first time since the accident.

Chris, from Sawtry, who is known as Tigger, specialises in accident and emergency work and has been acting as a locum at hospitals, including Hinchingsbrooke.

Chris, 33, said: "As an A&E doctor I have had patients brought in to me from Magpas and I thought it was a good charity to support."

"It was only later that Sam's mum told me about what had happened to her and Magpas's involvement. After that it became a life mission to make sure Magpas is properly funded."

Sam, 31, and Dr John Hedges, the Magpas doctor who went to her aid, met as Chris launched his epic solo ride.

Sam, who needed around 15 operations to repair her facial burns, was aged just 7 at the time of the accident.

She was travelling in a Mini being driven by her mother on the old A14 at Arrington when a lorry collided with the car. Her five-year-old brother Anthony died, but Sam and



MY HEROES: Sam with Chris, left, and Dr John Hedges, who saved her life 776975 left, 776985

her mother were pulled alive from the wreckage.

Dr Hedges, of Royston Health Centre, said: "We were usually the first to arrive at the scene before the emergency services."

"I was confronted with a young girl who had got burns from her mid torso upwards. I wanted to give her pain relief because of her burns."

Dr Hedges said that even as a doctor he had not been able to find out about Sam's recovery: "To see her today just clarifies in my mind that all the effort individuals had put in had been to effect."

Sam, who grew up in Cambridge and is a senior physiotherapist at Papworth Hospital,

said: "It was only two or the months ago that mum said Magpas had been involved. That was the first time I had been aware of it. It is just an amazing coincidence." She added it had been wonderful to meet Dr Hedges.

Chris, who is also raising money for Riders for Health, a charity providing motorcycle equipment for medics in Africa, hopes to raise £100,000 with the 21,000-mile ride.

The ride starts in February. He will be travelling south through Africa, across to India and then back through Europe.

Further information about the ride and sponsorship is available from www.tiggerstravels.org.

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