

# Pedal power effort for good cause



**CYCLE EFFORT** . . . Cameron Burnett from Carrutherstown and Charlie Steel from Dalton, both 17, pass through Eastriggs as they race from Lands End to John O'Groats over eight days in a bid to raise funds for charity

TWO TEENAGERS aiming to cycle the length of Great Britain were glad to make it back into familiar territory on Wednesday.

Charlie Steel, from Dalton, and Cameron Burnett, from Carrutherstown, both 17, pedalled over the border at Gretna Green and on into Eastriggs as part of their ambition to cycle from Land's End to John O'Groats in just eight days.

Stepping off his bike, Charlie said: "It's nice to be home on home turf — back in Scotland where we belong."

The lifelong friends and former Carrutherstown Primary School pupils set off from Land's End on Saturday, raising money for a cause inspired by the tragic death of Charlie's Worcestershire cousin, James Wentworth-Stanley, who took his own life in 2006 at the age of just 21.

Charlie said: "We're doing this for the James Wentworth-Stanley Memorial Fund (JWSMF). It's a fund to help peo-

ple with depression. It's an illness that people don't know much about."

With family describing an almost brotherly bond between the boys, Charlie added: "He was the nicest guy I've ever known. He was awesome, a really good guy."

Aiming to raise funds and confront the stigma surrounding suicide, Charlie convinced keen mountain-biker Cameron to join him on a journey totalling more than 900 miles, averaging 113 miles each day.

Cameron said: "I'm really enjoying the challenge. It's definitely a lot harder than I imagined it to be, but it's been pretty epic so far."

"The weather's actually been pretty kind to us so far. The tailwind's definitely helped."

Stopping at Eastriggs, the boys were helped with a gear problem on one bicycle by Wullie Findlay, of Wheels Fargo.

Laughing, as he enjoyed the chance

for a quick break, cycling newcomer Charlie described himself and his friend as 'a bit overambitious and over-confident'.

He said: "I never really envisaged how hard it would be. I thought biking was biking — just keep going all day — but you've got to keep a pace and you can't give up."

Both sets of parents have thrown their full support behind the boys, following them on their journey.

And Charlie's father Anthony Steel has been making stops to fish the rivers along the route, penning an article for Fly Fishing & Fly Tying magazine.

Charlie still has one year of studies ahead of him at Eton College, while Cameron has left Lockerbie Academy, preparing to study engineering at Napier University in Edinburgh.

To contribute to the James Wentworth-Stanley Memorial Fund, visit [www.justgiving.com/Cameron-Charlie-LEJOG](http://www.justgiving.com/Cameron-Charlie-LEJOG)