

## London-to-Paris riders survive British carve-ups and French heat

FOUR women who cycled from London to Paris raised more than £8,000.

June Martel, Mandy Austin, Mandy Mortimer and Michelle Brouard completed the 300km ride for the Pink Ladies breast cancer support group.

The women were part of a group of about 90 riders who set off from the Tower of London and finished three days later at the Eiffel Tower.

'It was a real challenge and there was some big hills, especially on the third day when it was so hot,' said Mrs Austin.

temperature rose to the high 20s during the latter part of the ride.

Mrs Austin said



**SADDLESORE FOUR:** From left: Mandy Mortimer, Michelle Brouard, Mandy Austin and June Martel prove they made it by posing in front of the Eiffel Tower. (0228100)

**by Nigel Baudains**

attitude towards cyclists was different on either side of the Channel.

The French are far more patient and give you a wide berth and we were often clapped on the way through,' she said.

'The British take a different

"The French are far more patient and give you a wide berth. The British take a different view"

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Charity cyclist Mandy Austin

view and some drivers tried to force people off the road.'

Mrs Martel's bike suffered one puncture on the second day and two on the third. A mechanic who travelled with the group fixed them.

'A lot of people have been very generous and we're pleased with our total,' said Mrs Austin.

'It's always nice to make as much money as you can.'

Other fund-raising events contributed to the total. These included a cake stall at the Castel Church Christmas bazaar - the £160 that it raised was matched with by donation from Barclays.

The women thanked everyone who supported their ride.

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