

## London by night – on rollerski

(I write this story in English so my hosts at London Rollerski Club also can read about my adventure. I hope my english is not to bad ... )

Every now and then I travel to work at exhibitions and this time it was the Broadband World Forum in London. Due to stressful preparations I lost many hours on rollerskis but in the mid of all this I recalled that there is a Rollerski Club in London. Why not ...? After a few minutes of surfing the net I found out it would be a training session in Hyde Park, Tuesday Oct 20 1830. I dropped a mail to one of the contact and got instant reply from Felicity Bertram. “The more the merrier” – pls join us ☺.



Now working exhibitions , being responsible for the technical setup of demos, don't leave much time spare time. It like the salt mines. Work until it works ... Sometimes work until you drop... Tuesday , first day on the exhibition ... If I've done my work well and the demo gods are with me I could possible sneak away early. So , salt mines both Sunday and Monday .



*Behind the scene – tech room/salt mine*



*Glamorous front ...*

But I was lucky ! Everything smooth and I was on the tube to Lancaster Gate and Hyde Park.

After a short walk I saw a familiar sight. A group of people with helmets with lights, reflex vests , poles etc ☺ I found Felicity that quickly introduced me to people and I was sent to the “vans”.

Why don't we have vans ??? These vans were like mini “Alewalds” with all gear needed to rollerski.

Excellent ! I got boots, helmet , poles, red led light and skis. Now I was set go.



*Felicity Bertram – the manager*



*One of the two vans packed with gear.*

This evening there were 17 beginners on classic skis so my original plan to skate was perfect. No need to distract the classic group and I got a go on skating. For a classic centric guy like me it's a challenge just to put them on. Took approx. 30 seconds until I "checked the surface"... I hope it was too dark for anyone to notice 😊.



My group went off with a French instructor. Now I missed my own helmet as there was no light on the available helmets. Hyde Park, though it is central London, is pretty dark. So better make sure to go nice and secure behind someone with proper lights. Our coach took us through the different skating gears with and without poles. At one point we should double-pole and now I felt really secure for a moment. *(Tommie, I really tried to apply the last instructions – “killing the asphalt” and so on. Don’t think it would pass your coach eyes but I hope I didn’t mislead any of my London friends with my lousy technique. )*

The Park was nice to ski in. Lots of park ways. Some very smooth, some rather rough. Very flat but rather dark as mentioned. Back home, with lights on, I normally see droppings from Horses. Now I missed a couple of piles but lucky I could handle that without ... I think you understand what could have happened 😊



90 minutes like our sessions. But it would be really interesting to do a “postbox-race” here... For our London friends – we have a postbox 2 km away – 30 rollerskiers in full pursuit to the postbox and back. I promise that it will give the bikers something to think about when they meet such a crowd😊. The park at least have wide path so you all it takes to do it😊

In all we were about 35 in Hyde Park this evening and as mentioned before I loved the organization with gear to lend , paper to sign off responsibility from the organizers etc . They were really taking care of the beginners in different groups. I really recommend visiting a session if you have business in London. Just drop Felicity Bertram ,or some of the other contacts on their homepage, a mail and I’m sure your will be welcomed in the same way I was.

Last but not least – now ready for another day at the exhibition center.

Jan-Olof Furehed

link to London Rollerski Club <http://www.rollerski.co.uk/clubprog.html>