

Mark Sanders' Lecture to The Institute of Structural Engineers

I saw a post on [The Folding Society](#) News page that on the 21st of March 2006, Mark Sanders of [MAS design](#), Strida's designer, was to give a lecture in Bath, and that it was open to the public. Mike Hessey also expressed an interest in going.

I arrived about 10 minutes early and was the first person there, locked the GoBike to the railings using about 25 lbs of locks!

When Mark and his family arrived, I was pleased to find on introducing myself, that he already knew me through my website. He had brought with him 3 bikes and an assortment of ingenious gadgets that he'd invented (along with a selection of prototypes) Obviously the Strida was well known to me, as it would be to most of you so I'll skip that bit.

The X-bike was yet another small wheeled prototype for Sir Clive Sinclair, who apparently thinks these wheels are too big. As with all the small wheel bikes that I've tried, I didn't like the high centre of gravity.

After explaining the development of his one hand operated can opener and showing us the various prototypes, he then showed us an amazing injection moulded chopping board/ 2-way scoop.

Finally it came the time to reveal all about his revolutionary Swivelhead full size 26" wheeled folder, it combines a quick fold with unparalleled frame stiffness when the tensioning rods are tightened and the roll along ease of his Strida. I want one!

I folded it, rolled it through the Guildhall, then carried it downstairs, wheeled it outside to mark's car. I demonstrated the folding of my GoBike and could kick myself that I did not take a side-by-side photo with both bikes folded! I showed Mark some of the GoBike's weaknesses and explained my proposed solutions.

I've added notes to the accompanying photos.

I would like to thank Mark and his family for a fascinating evening and for the info he sent on some folders not already on my list.

The Institution of Mechanical Engineers
Guidance Council Chamber, South
21st March 2006

Mark Sanders

1. Inspiration
2. Background
3. Case studies
4. Folding bikes









SRAM
SX

























What a great night, I helped Mark and his family downstairs with all their paraphernalia, and headed off to The Green Tree, a fabulous, tiny real ale pub in the centre of Bath, after much quaffing of ale, hilarity and swapping of ripping yarns with the characterful locals and a smattering of tourists, I bid my goodbyes, only to return 10 minutes later after missing the last direct train!

More ale, more yarns, a huge struggle to escape the clutches of my fellow revellers. Off I go again to catch the last Cardiff train, which unfortunately disappeared with the speed of a thousand gazelles into the moonlight! Oops! So I had to cycle around Bath looking for a bed for the night. Finally found a room.

Next morning, I set off to visit [Cycles Maximus](#) at their Bath workshops, had a great tour of their impressive workshops and a cuppa with the very, very nice and laid back guys there. There were a few folders and some strange one-off specials too.

Then it was back to [Avon Valley Cyclery](#) for a look around there amazing range of folders.



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Informational text block on the blue wall, partially obscured by a bicycle wheel.



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FOR BIKES







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CHINA GARAGE





Sweet Pea

Then I decided to ride the 16 miles down the Bath to Bristol Rail Cycletrack, it was cold and windy but dry and fairly bright. Stopped off at Bitton Station on the [Avon Valley Railway](#), for a spot of Tiffin from the buffet, and a chat with fellow cyclists and rambles. Then a pleasant ride in Bristol for a few well deserved 'sherbets' in The Bridge Inn, The Cornubia, The White Lion & The Bag O' Nails.

Then I actually managed to catch a train to Cardiff where I rode slap bang into the middle of the filmset for an episode of Dr. Who, as it turned out my friend Grunt was appearing as a motorcycle courier.

All in all a 'Cracking Day Out Grommet'!!!!





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