



Cycling brothers tested by desert

By **Sinead Holland**
NEWS EDITOR

sinead.holland@hertsessexnews.co.uk

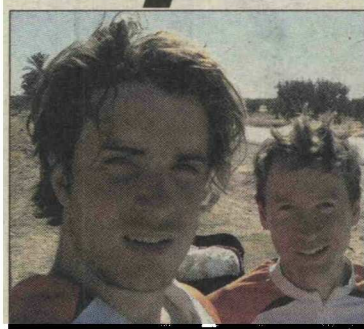
THE dust of the Libyan desert is testing biking Bishop's Stortford brothers Jon and Dom Wright.

The pair, *pictured right*, have been making their way across the African state as part of their bid to pedal 11,000 miles around the Tropic of Cancer.

They began their odyssey on October 9 and will cover 15 countries by the time their epic 260-day endurance task ends in Havana, Cuba.

They have already ticked off France, Italy and Tunisia. From Libya, their route takes them into Egypt.

Then Jon, 27, who has twice survived testicular cancer, and his older brother Dom will travel through Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, India, Bangladesh, Burma, China, Taiwan and Mexico on the Plurimi Tropic of Cancer Challenge.



The brothers, who aim to raise awareness of the disease as well as money for Macmillan Cancer Support and three other charities, have been keeping their supporters – including Jon's fiancée, Green Tye singer Holly Rose – up-to-date on progress with a series of blog posts on their website www.tccchallenge.co.uk.

As the punishing Libyan terrain started to take its toll, Jon wrote: "After a shed-load of dust particles in my eyes today, I decided enough was enough and went shopping for some sunglasses. I emerged from a phar-

macy with a pair of Stevie Wonder-style sunglasses, which Dom found highly amusing.

"We also went shopping in a supermarket to collect some food for the next four days of bleakness ahead: no hotels, no restaurants, few shops, just desert.

"Our shopping list included eight packets of crisps, eight cans of drink, a huge bag of boiled sweets and 30 Jo Jo's [cake bars] – and that was just for snacks! Imagine the dentist bill when we get back to the UK."

Later, he added: "Really tough day's cycling today, 70 miles into a strong headwind, and I hit my first wall of the challenge. I occupied my mind by focusing on positive thoughts: the finishing line next year, Holly, family and, of course, to give strength to those people fighting cancer."

To sponsor the brothers, go to www.justgiving.com/tccchallenge.

Jon said: "I want to send out the message that cancer doesn't have to be the end but can in fact be the birth of a new life where you're stronger than before."

