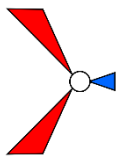


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<319/c>	see the curtain hasn't been drawn or the untied shoelace. While the ladies who lunch get on with planning their next murders, it seems that the reputation of dorothy L.Sayers is alive and well, and safe in their hands. Read in studio Now, back to an age when British really was Best ... at least as far as the motorbike was concerned. Hundreds of machines, some almost a century old were spruced up and dusted down yesterday for one of the biggest events in the biking calendar. Video-Taped report follows IAN MACLAREN Banbury MICK JAGGARD Event Secretary Voice over This is the enthusiasts chance to wheel out their vintage and veteran motorbikes ... and show off a little. The 45th Annual Banbury Run attracted more than 350 entrants ... from the 1897 Leon Bollee to machines bearing the nostalgic names of British manufacturers of 1930. Among the big attractions a 1910 Haleson, which still runs on the steam principle ... vox Even the oldest machines can reach average speeds of 12 miles an hour ... all of them painstakingly restored and maintained ... The more sociable types opt for a sidecar ... vox And this BSA built in 1927 is still enjoying an active life ... vox A push start is required to get some of the veterans going ... There are three routes ... 25 miles for the older machines and up to 70 miles for robust models. Sadly our friend on the steam machine does n't get too far. And there was an almost disastrous end for this 1913 American motorbike, which once belonged to the actor, Steve McQueen ... vox But it's on the country roads that these vintage and veteran motorbikes ... seem to be in their element. And it was here that the once great motorbike manufacturers of the Midlands tested the machines that are still running today. ANDREW TRYTHALL US in new action in Somalia Four in custody on murder charge Timex boss resigns FTSE up 23 The hundred shares index closed up twenty three point seven at two eight eight five point five +23.7 at 2885.5 The pound is up at one dollar, fifty two and up at two marks, forty eight. (ad lib) \$1.52 DM2.48 Time allowed = 07:18 Read in studio Welcome back: In a few minutes, those motorbikes of old will be firing up again. But first, with the sport, Here's Tim. TIM Hello there: TIM RUSSON GRAHAM SHARPE/Organiser DEREK GREEN/Wantage SALLY HIBBERD/Gloucestershire ANDREW BROWN/Cheltenham SARAH BROWN/Cheltenham BARRIE CLARKE/Winner Voice over Llanwrtyd Wells is the smallest town in Britain ... but it's big claim to fame is being the home of one of the strangest aces in the world ... every year ... runners ... mountain bikers ... and horses come to ace against each other over
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	<p>a country course of 22 miles</p> <p>... The race or the idea was born in the local pub 14 years ago ... and the challenge is still running ... Graham Sharpe organiser says there is nowhere else in the world where two legs can ace against four and pick up fourteen thousand pounds in prize money if they win ... he explains that the horse has been beaten once by a mountain bike three years ago but they've never been able to work out a winning formula so</p>

	<p>no wonder the horse starts favourite with 12 wins to the bikers one ... what about the runners can they ever beat the horse ... Derek Green from the White Horse Harriers at Wantage won the running race last year ... Derek Green says he's come to defend his title and beat the horse ... it's muddy so he hopes the horse will get stuck and the mountain bikers Sally Hibberd from Gloucestershire is a former British Champion ... Sally Hibberd says it's a tough race and she may have to run a lot today for the brown family of Cheltenham there's a race within a race ... Andrew is on his mountain bike ... his wife Sarah is riding her horse Archer ... last year Sarah beat Andrew ... this year Andrew says he's fitter than last year but doesn't know if he can beat his wife Sarah who says she thinks her husband might get bogged down in the mud So much for the talk on with the race ... the mountain bikers hit the road first ... 144 set off from the start in the centre of town ... once they were on their way the runners ... 370 of them were under orders for their start ... and finally the horses ... 19 runners and riders this time ... were let lose ... the course was the same for all and it was n't long before all three met up together ... the hills the tracks were slippery with mud ... the streams were running a foot higher than normal with flood water ... a recipe for a race to remember ... first home through the mud and water was mountain biker Barrie Clarke in a time of 1 hour 45 minutes and 28 seconds ... Barrie Clarke ... says it was a tough race so much mud and he got thrown off quite a few times two minutes behind came the first horse ... for only the second time the wheels had won ... but the first runner Robin Bergstrand was 16 minutes further down the field ... chasing the horse was hard work ... Derek Green from Wantage was the third runner to finish ... Derek Green says it was much harder than last year ... the streams were like rivers and he got swept away once Sally Hibberd won the women's mountain bike race Sally says she even got lost on the course but</p>
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