

ABOUT CUDDIES AN CAMELS

A fictional story foondit on fact.

Geordie Jooks wisnae in an awfu guid gaun key at the feinish o the comatee forgatherin he wis at. There haed been a nummer o motions an contermotions voted on aw nicht an at the vote on the hinnermaist motion the ootcome wis juist a guddle that suited naither ae side nor the ither. Efter thon he wis mair convinced than ever that comatees wis nae guid for makin sense or decisions an the best they cuid come up wi at any time wis a compromise. Ay, an mony's the time it wis juist a compromise o a compromise o a compromise. Maist times the final ootcome wis naethin like whit haed originally been proponed an this brocht back tae his mind, memories o thon auld hairy story about the cuddy an the camel. If he minded richt, it kinna went like this:-

There wis a time lang syne when the Sultan o a desert country taen it intae his heid tae big up his country's transport system an bring it mair intae line wi thon o some o his neibours. He'd heard tell that some o his neibours haed a gey modern transportation system foondit on a prototype unit cried a "cuddy". Wi a cuddy, it wis threapit a man cuid traivel a sicht faurer an a sicht faster an cairry a sicht mair wecht o graith nor the wey it wis in thae days wi awbody juist yaisin thair ain feet for traivellin an thair ain backs for the cairryin.

The Sultan cried aw his advisers thegither an got thaim telt that he wantit his country tae hae a modern transportation system an aw, foondit on thon prototype "cuddy" system. He chaarged his advisors tae set up a twal man Transportation Comatee, taen frae aw the best academic brains in the country, tae design a prototype "super-cuddy" that wad gie thair country the best an maist modern transportation system in the warld.

Weel the Comatee got yokit tae an first aff they got haud o some prototype cuddy design drawins an set oot tae tweek a wee bit here an a wee bit thare tae improve on the original design. Ae academic wisnae aw that taen wi the cuddy's feet. Ithers wis o the consait that the existin feet on the prototype cuddy haed been proven in ither countries sae it micht be best juist tae leave weel alane. "Naw!" said the first ane, "Thae kind o feet micht be aw richt for in the touns or e'en in landwart airts that his plenty o causie roads but this country his naethin but desert sand frae ae border tae the ither. A doot thae kind o feet micht sink intae the sand an the cuddy micht end up cowpin ower. A think the contact area o the fit haes tae be makit a guid bit bigger sae as tae cut doon the pressure per square centimetre on the sand an that wey the feet winnae sink sae faur in."

Thon wis juist ane o the mony chynge the comatee cam oot wi. The middle o the cuddy's back wis hysted up an the legs lengthened sae that the rider cuid see ower the knowes frae the fit o the howes in the sand. Coorse langer shanks meant a langer neck an then reserve water tanks an reserve fuid stores wis fitted.

Efter mony years the super-cuddy wis feinisht an presentit tae the Sultan. The Sultan cuidnae believe his een when he first got sicht o the new prototype an speirt, "Whit in the name o the wee man is this ugsome craiter for it looks naethin like a cuddy an ye

aw ken fine it wis a cuddy that A wis efter?" The comatee set aboot pyntin oot aw the advantages the new design haed ower the auld ane an in the hinneren the Sultan, kennin there wisnae nae time tae stert ower again, said they wad juist hae tae try it oot an mak the best o't then he added, "But we cannae cry this ugsome lookin thing a cuddy for it disnae look naethin like ane. Whit are we gaun tae cry it?"

The comatee scarted thair heids for a meinit then ane o thaim proponed tae cry it a "camel".

"A camel? Whit's a camel?"

"A dinnae ken but it soonds juist aboot richt."

"Wait a meenit, A've fund it in ma dictionar." cried anither an read it oot tae awbody,

"Camel – the final ootcome ilka time a comatee sets oot tae design a cuddy, whiles better kent as the ship o the desert."

"Weel A doot it'll hae tae be 'camel' efter aw." said the Sultan, "Some bluidy cuddy this haes turned oot tae be! Next time, A'd be juist as weel daein the bluidy job mase!"