8 Application

My final year project has a huge user centred component. The project is to re imagine a derny pacing bike which is powered by harnessing potential energy from cyclists on warm up rollers and using that energy to charge batteries to power an electric bike.

The project has a number of stakeholders including the pro cyclists and the derny rider himself. Throughout the project I must keep both users needs in mind and ensure that neither is compromised on behalf of the other.

The planning aspect of human factors is very useful indeed. Being prepared before turning up to meet users is very useful as you can work out what information you are looking to get.

In order to clearly communicate my concepts to the users, human factors has taught me to plan ahead and use prototypes throughout to gain constructive feedback from the users. Talking to stakeholders with an idea or trying to convey your thoughts through words can be challenging. Through human factors I have seen the importance of physical models over drawings or thoughts as the feedback is much less subjective from the user.

By involving them early in the process I have been able to make subtle adjustments very easily to ensure my product is meeting the users needs. It is better to make mistakes early so that I can learn from them and have time to make them right.

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Appendix A - User Profiles
Appendix B - Questionnaire
Appendix C - Initial Sketches
Appendix D - Clip Design
Appendix E - Screen/Information Design
Appendix F - Instruction Booklet