

Issue 566

May 2021

Cranks Volume 48

The magazine of
**Deeside Thistle Cycling
Club**

Sponsored by:

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Tierney Strachan
PROCESS CONTROL ENGINEERING

**Current Membership 578 (591)
SCU Membership 302 (321)**

Editorial:

Our Evening League has risen again. Re-engineered, many of the courses have been modified to avoid road turns. The Garlogie start has gone for safety reasons and new routes will appear as the season progresses.

Bikes are now classed as TT or Road with a separate competition for each.

Adhering to Covid-19 Guidance, riders will not be supported on the start line, nor will the timekeepers count them down verbally, instead giving a visual indicator by hand. Social distancing must be maintained in the start area. Numbers are being issued which riders will retain for the season.

Unfortunately, Covid-19 restrictions also mean that the traditional HQs in local halls is not possible. Steve Walton is at the helm this year and he'll conduct much of the admin from the back of his car.

Extra care is being taken to avoid handling of equipment. Signs, Hi-Viz jackets, etc will be sanitised before use, watches will be retained by timekeepers. There is no handling of money with all registration done on-line.

Over 60 have already registered for this year's league. A few riders may still not want to risk taking part, but the measures put in place make our league inherently safe. This bodes well for a strong competition into summer.

PHILOSOPHER'S CORNER

*There's never been a sight that didn't look better
looking back*

Do you have a view on life? Why not submit your favourite few words of wisdom for public consumption in this exclusive corner of your magazine. Send now to Sandy Lindsay, Rowan Cottage, Inveramsay, Inverurie, AB51 5DQ or email knockies@aol.com

Coronavirus Update

Guidance effective from 26 April is available here: <https://www.britishcycling.org.uk/scotland/article/20200313-Scottish-Cycling-Coronavirus-COVID19-Guidance-0>

Please take care to follow the rules, to not offend.

Re-establishment of Club Rides

How to Register for Club Rides via Spond - Register on SPOND via:

- <https://club.spond.com/landing/signup/deesideadults>
- When you register select the ride group you would like to join
- You must download and read the Terms and Conditions and you must consent to follow the terms and conditions for riding under COVID-19 restrictions
- The ride organiser will approve your membership

Once approved:

- Download the SPOND app to your phone and login
- You can accept invitations for rides that you have been invited to join. Note that you must confirm your attendance via SPOND by accepting the invite to a ride
- If you have not been invited, message the group organiser via SPOND to invite you
- You can also sign onto a ride or request an invite via any browser: <https://spond.com/>

Club Mountain Bike Rides

There's long been a need to hold regular mountain bike rides for club members, but the question was how to achieve this. As with everything there will be a wide range of abilities, bikes, fitness and locality within the club so one ride group won't satisfy everyone, every week.

Rides will vary in who they are catering for, who they will suit. Technical one week or cruisy XC tours the next, etc. This will have to be the way until we 'staff up' with leaders to take on different levels of rides.

With all that in mind can you comment if you are interested with the following:

- What level/type of rider are you?
- What kind of rides would you like to see the club put on?
- Where are you located and where do you predominately ride?
- Do you have any qualifications?
- Would you be interested in leading a ride?

You can register here <https://group.spond.com/WWDYZ> and comments, please, to Neil on mtb@deeside.org

Club Branded Aluminium Water Bottles

We have purchased a stock of club branded, high quality, aluminium 750ML water bottles which feature a handy carabiner for attachment. Cost is only £5.00 per bottle. Go [here](#) for more information and to order yours

Notes for Cranks

My ability to find suitable material to fill the pages of your monthly magazine, Cranks, becomes more and more difficult.

The Coronavirus stringencies may be easing and results from events may start appearing, and these results will help a little, but I'd like to see more personal stories.

It troubles me more than a little that some months Cranks seems to fill up with my personal notes. That's not the way it should be. There should be a good cross-section from others in the club.

How about penning a few lines and sending it through to knockies@deeside.org.

Flora's Café to Re-Open

For long, a favourite haunt on club runs, it disappointed many when Flora's Restaurant at Cullerlie closed its doors.

A new solo operator has taken over and projects a re-opening from mid-May onwards. Further details will be available nearer the opening date.

Meantime the shop is undergoing a revamp.

KNOCKBURN LOCH MANAGEMENT

John Huston Knockburn Site Manager, Knockburn Loch, Strachan, AB31 6LL info@knockburn.co.uk, 01330 822234 / 07741314999 www.knockburn.co.uk. You can like us on [FaceBook](https://www.facebook.com/knockburnloch) and follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/knockburnloch)

Club Officials

We're in a bit of a quandary. Your Finance and Management Committee (that's the group of members who work to keep your club running) are not up to strength.

To ensure all our Championships are properly calculated we need a Championship Secretary. This person looks after the race results during the year and works out who wins what.

Then there's our Events Secretary. This position works hand in glove with the Championship Secretary and can even be the same person though two folk helps spread the load. This official ensures that all the club promotions follow correct procedures and assists in sourcing race personnel and equipment.

Finally, there's our Social Media Person. We're looking at this position taking over the Press Secretary duties. He or she will be expected to have regular input to the various social media outlets (Facebook, Twitter, etc) as well as releasing notes to the press.

If you are interested, why not drop a note to info@deeside.org to let us know.

Synopsis of Meeting 03/05/2021

A Finance and Management Committee meeting took place on-line, on Monday 03 May 2021. In attendance were Andrew Harrington, Sandy Lindsay, David Eastwood, Sam Long, Laura Sarkis, Peter Smart, Neil Stables, Jon Strachan, Mark Walker, David Walton and Steve Walton.

Agenda

- 1 **Apologies** – None
- 2 **Minutes of Previous Meeting** – Accepted as correct record
- 3 **Business Arising from Minute**
 - a) **Social Media Person** – Further requests to be made
 - b) **Watches** – New watches used at first league event. Worked well. The other watches possessed by the club have still to be assessed
- 4 **New Business**
 - a) **Evening League** – The first event went well with all those who had registered to ride, starting. The new format appears to have worked well. It was suggested that the age of riders in the various categories should not be displayed. For sake of clarity these are still to be shown. Routes being used are to be shown on-line. Historical routes are to be removed. Handicaps are to be included in the various competitions. Garlogie Hall carpark is available for use but there is no access to the building. The Cullerlie Farm Park has been offered for our events, but access is difficult. Offers to volunteer have been sparse. A hard line is to be taken after Event 6 when those who have not yet volunteered will be denied entry until they do. For safety weather checks will be made prior to events. Under 18s must ride restricted gears. The new radios were used successfully at the first event
 - b) **LED Display** – The purchase of large Timekeepers LED display is being investigated
- 5 **Next Meeting – 05 July 2021 at 7.00pm**

A Lindsay (Secretary) 03 May 2021

Car Clinic Offer

A special offer has been made to companies who want to set up staff discount schemes for their employees which allows them to register their own details and get discount automatically when they visit Car Clinic. It has been a roaring success and I thought that maybe I should extend to include members of the Deeside Thistle. Please follow this link for register detail <https://www.car-clinic.co.uk/employee-discount/>
Sandy Wilson

CTT Events 2021

See below a link for a list of events proposed for 2021 Handbook

Can you all please note that we will be compiling a Short Distance BAR in 2021 but we will not be asking the organisers for the district levy of £1 as was proposed and accepted for 2020.

Attachments available for download:

[CTT Scotland 2021 Events](#)

Zwift Sunday Club Endurance Ride

Created and administered by Simon Stromberg

We now have a Sunday Club Endurance Ride on Zwift, with different groups at a different pace. Details [here](#). This is run in partnership with ZwiftScotland group.

There will be different groups formed on ride each at a different pace. Regrouping at top of KOMs.



ZWIFT.COM

New Members

The following new or returning members have joined in recent weeks

1999	Ewan Murray	Lumphanan	43
2093	Sara Stead	Stonehaven	57
2215	Mark Davidson	Torphins	50
2253	Calum Anderson	Stonehaven	21
2273	Ken Dryburgh	Westhill	55
2284	Lewis Coffin	Stonehaven	28
3003	Allen Davidson	Aberdeen	38
3004	Innes Jamieson	Inverurie	33
3005	Calum Cormack	Aboyne	48
3006	David McKay	Aberdeen	34
3007	Dave Cowie	Westhill	47

Any friend, family member, work colleague, who is interested in cycling but not involved with a club, should be dropped the hint to look at www.deeside.org/members or to email members@deeside.org asking for information.

25 Years Ago

There I was making a renewed effort to show all those young blades how it should be done. The wind was freezing. It cut right through. I'd only brought my skinsuit and those new fangled shoes without clips. To stave off the icy penetration of bitter blasts, under the skinsuit went a woolly jumper and a pair of thermal longs. Thermal gloves hid my watch and just as well.

I started off okay. Not very quickly I'll admit. If only the delusion that things would never change hadn't crossed my mind when my racing efforts declined in the 80s.

I wound the revs up to the Garlogie straight. There a wind pushed at my tail but soon things started to go wrong. Somebody shouted that I was going like a train. Absolutely. Those of you who remember the noise an old steam engine made when it struggled to pull heavy wagons up a steep incline will know exactly what the shout of "you're going like a train" meant.

Has the first half of a 10 ever been so long? Turning into the wind I found that the gears were far too big and me being far too pig-headed wouldn't change down very far. Then, onto the Garlogie straight for the final mammoth effort to the finish.

That last mile came and went in a dream, a nightmare of pain. Round that last bend and up the gentle ascent to the finish my promised lunge came to naught.

The corpulence caused by several years of inactivity except in the eating and drinking department swayed side to side threatening to overbalance the whole show. The timekeepers spotted me but didn't get too excited knowing they had plenty of time to sort themselves out.

A last desperate gasp took me through the finish line only seconds ahead of a chasing rider who turned out to be Sandy Pirie almost catching me five minutes. Will I ever live it down? At least it gave everyone the opportunity to have a little light relief at the first Evening League event of 1996.

Youth Free Membership

Deeside Thistle Cycling Club is delighted to offer free membership to new youth riders for their first year. If you would like to take advantage of this offer, please see: <http://www.deeside.org/membership.html>

Ride Etiquette Document

You are reminded that a paper detailing the etiquette to follow when on club/training runs has been prepared and is [here](#) for your interest. The document is posted on the club's website and links will start to appear on club publications so that you can refer to it. It will also be highlighted to new members.



Britain's National Cyclists' Association
Working for all Cyclists

Newcomers are welcome particularly on the Morning/Slower Full Day runs.

Medium and Faster Full Day runs are for the more experienced

For more information visit our website:

<http://www.ctcgrampian.org.uk>

Chairman	John B	01224 571984
Secretary	Sheila	01224 639012
Runs Co-ordinator	John S	01224 790269
Social Secretary	Heather	01224 699399
Treasurer	John C	
Membership	John T	01224 639012

Right to Ride Representatives

South Aberdeenshire	Vacant	
Central Aberdeenshire	Vacant	
North Aberdeenshire	Rod	01467 623317

Runs Co-ordinators

Try Cycling Rides	Moira D	
Morning Runs	Cindy	01224 310719
Slower Full Day Runs	Heather	01224 699399
Medium Full Day Runs	Sheila	01224 63901
Faster Full Day Runs	John S	01224 790269

Following guidance from our Covid 19 Officer, Rod Adams, the following has been agreed to ensure that our runs will operate in a Covid secure fashion.

Our risk assessment has been uploaded to the CTC Grampian website: <http://www.ctcgrampian.org.uk/> and participation in club rides will be subject to all participants having familiarised themselves with, and agreed to comply with, the terms of the risk assessment.

To be Track and Trace compliant, we are asking all participants to arrive with a small (business card size) paper with their name and contact details. These papers will be collected by the Ride Leader at the start of the run in a plastic bag and held securely for 21 days, before being destroyed. This requirement will be incorporated into the risk assessment and displayed on the Runs list page of the club website.

“No ticket, no ride”!

In addition, all riders continue to be required to carry a Next of Kin card in the event of an accident. These are available from the Ride Leader and/or Secretary.

Newcomers: We welcome newcomers, particularly on the ‘Try Cycling’ and ‘Morning’ runs. You do not need to be

a member of the Cycling UK to join our runs, but after 3 runs you would be expected to join Cycling UK.

Runs start promptly at the time stated. Distances are calculated from the meeting place. Bring spare inner tube, puncture repair kit, tools, wet weather gear, some food, drink and LIGHTS where relevant. It is recommended that all cyclists carry a First Aid kit.

Try Cycling: rides are intended for those who have not been on the saddle for a while and for those who want a quiet ride around Aberdeen.

These are easy rides followed or interrupted by a coffee stop, families are welcome.

Morning Runs: These runs are at a relatively slow pace and are usually about 25–30 miles long. A coffee or picnic stop will usually be made.

Full Day Runs: These are all-day runs intended for experienced cyclists. A coffee stop and lunch/picnic stop will be made. Distances and speeds vary as outlined below:

Slower Full Day Runs: Slowish pace. Distance normally 30-45 miles.

Medium Full Day Runs: Moderate pace. Distance normally 45-60 miles.

Faster Full Day Runs: Fast pace. Distance normally 60-75 miles (* runs are longer).

Pub Runs: Start prompt at the time stated, to reach the pub by 21:00 approximately. LIGHTS

Runs

May

Sat	1	May	Slower Full Day	09:30	Brig O Balgownie, picnic coffee at Newmachar, picnic lunch at Tarves	Rod, Tom S
Sat	1	May	Try Cycling	10:00	Hazlehead, Groats Rd Car Park, Short easy rides, all welcome.	John C, John P
Sun	2	May	Faster Full Day	09:00	Peterculter (west end), picnic coffee at Banchory, picnic lunch at Tarland	Alberto, David B
Sun	2	May	Morning Run	09:30	Seaton Park St Machar Entrance, The Chanonry, picnic coffee at Parkhill	John S, Alan
Thu	6	May	Thursday Run	09:30	Airyhall Library, to be decided on the day, morning ride with picnic coffee stop.	Cindy, Dave H
Sat	8	May	Medium Full Day	09:30	Peterculter, picnic coffee at Banchory, picnic lunch at Haughton Country Park, Alford	John T, Doug
Sun	9	May	Faster Full Day	09:00	Parkhill Bridge, Dyce, coffee at Inverurie, picnic lunch at Leith Hall, Kennethmont	John B, Andy G
Sun	9	May	Morning Run	09:30	Brig O Balgownie, picnic coffee at Balmedie Beach	Cindy, Anne
Sun	9	May	Try Cycling	10:00	Duthie Park, Riverside Drive, Short easy rides, all welcome.	Moira, Mike
Thu	13	May	Thursday Run	09:30	Airyhall Library, to be decided on the day, morning ride with picnic coffee stop.	Cindy, Alan
Sat	15	May	Morning Run	09:30	Airyhall Library, picnic coffee at Chapelton of Elsick	Dave H, Cindy
Sat	15	May	Try Cycling	10:00	Seaton Park, Don St Entrance, Short easy rides, all welcome.	Gordon, Alan
Sun	16	May	Slower Full Day	09:30	Airyhall Library, picnic coffee at Milton of Crathes, picnic lunch at Forest of Birse	John T, Sheila
Thu	20	May	Thursday Run	09:30	Airyhall Library, to be decided on the day, morning ride with picnic coffee stop.	Cindy, Dave H
Sat	22	May	Faster Full Day	09:00	Peterculter (west end), picnic coffee at Torphins, picnic lunch at Burn O Vat	Adrian R, John B
Sat	22	May	Morning Run	09:30	Torry Battery Car Park, picnic coffee at Park Bridge football field	Anne, Alan

Sun 23 May Medium Full Day 09:30 Old Mill Inn, Maryculter,
 coffee at Stonehaven, picnic lunch at Drumtochty Glen Heather,Rod
 Sun 23 May Try Cycling 10:00 Hazlehead, Groats Rd Car
 Park, Short easy rides, all welcome. Mike,Moira
 Thu 27 May Thursday Run 09:30 Airyhall Library, to be
 decided on the day, morning ride with picnic coffee stop. Dave H,Alan
 Sat 29 May Slower Full Day 09:30 Parkhill Bridge, Dyce, picnic
 coffee at Inverurie, picnic lunch at Castle Fraser Heather,Tom S
 Sat 29 May Try Cycling 10:00 Duthie Park, Riverside Drive,
 Short easy rides, all welcome. Peter S,Imogen B
 Sun 30 May Faster Full Day 09:00 Westhill Shopping Centre,
 picnic coffee at Alford, picnic lunch at Rhynie Andy G,Jacqui
 Sun 30 May Morning Run 09:30 Hazlehead, Groats Rd Car
 Park, picnic coffee at Kintore Cindy,John S

June

Thu 3 Jun Thursday Run 09:30 Airyhall Library, to be
 decided on the day, morning ride with picnic coffee stop. Cindy,Dave H
 Sat 5 Jun Medium Full Day 09:30 Westhill Shopping Centre,
 picnic coffee at Midmar, picnic lunch at Aboyne John S,Rob C
 Sun 6 Jun Faster Full Day 09:00 Parkhill Bridge, Dyce, picnic
 coffee at Inch, picnic lunch at Rothiemay Alberto,David B
 Sun 6 Jun Morning Run 09:30 Footdee (Round House),
 picnic coffee at Portlethen Harbour Heather,Gordon
 Sun 6 Jun Try Cycling 10:00 Seaton Park, Don St Entrance,
 Short easy rides, all welcome. John C,Alan
 Thu 10 Jun Thursday Run 09:30 Airyhall Library, to be
 decided on the day, morning ride with picnic coffee stop. Cindy,Alan
 Sat 12 Jun Faster Full Day 09:00 Old Mill Inn, Maryculter,
 coffee at Inverbervie, picnic lunch at Drumtochty Glen Jacqui,John B
 Sat 12 Jun Morning Run 09:30 Woodend Hospital, Edy Rd,
 picnic coffee at Brimmond Hill Anne,Dave H
 Sat 12 Jun Try Cycling 10:00 Hazlehead, Groats Rd Car
 Park, Short easy rides, all welcome. John P,Gordon
 Sun 13 Jun Slower Full Day 09:30 Duthie Park, Riverside Drive,
 coffee at Chapelton of Elsie, picnic at Crathes Castle, Sheila,John T
 Thu 17 Jun Thursday Run 09:30 Airyhall Library, to be
 decided on the day, morning ride with picnic coffee stop. Cindy,Dave H
 Sat 19 Jun Faster Full Day 09:00 B&Q, Bridge of Don, picnic
 coffee at Pitmedden, picnic lunch at Bullers of Buchan Doug,Andy G
 Sat 19 Jun Morning Run 09:30 Brig O Balgownie, picnic
 coffee at Newmachar Imogen B,Cindy
 Sun 20 Jun Medium Full Day 09:30 Parkhill Bridge, Dyce, picnic
 coffee at Oldmeldrum, picnic lunch at Fyvie Castle, Fyvie Rod,Rob C
 Sun 20 Jun Try Cycling 10:00 Duthie Park, Riverside Drive,
 Short easy rides, all welcome. Peter S,Mike
 Thu 24 Jun Thursday Run 09:30 Airyhall Library, to be
 decided on the day, morning ride with picnic coffee stop. Alan,Dave H
 Sat 26 Jun Slower Full Day 09:30 FourMile House, Kingswells,
 coffee at Kinellar, picnic at Chapel O Garioch Heather,Adrian R
 Sat 26 Jun Try Cycling 10:00 Seaton Park, Don St Entrance,
 Short easy rides, all welcome. Moira,John C
 Sun 27 Jun Faster Full Day 09:00 Westhill Shopping Centre,
 picnic coffee at Alford, picnic lunch at Strathdon John B,John S
 Sun 27 Jun Morning Run 09:30 FourMile House, Kingswells,
 picnic coffee at Midmar Alan,Anne

Welfare Officers

Club Welfare Officers are Ian Wilson and Anna Liversidge. They can be contacted by telephone on 07919 280656. The email address to use is welfare@deeside.org

Club Kit Order

Pactimo kit orders may be collected from Tierney Strachan, 12 Greenbank Place, East Tullos, Aberdeen, AB12 3BT. We are not receiving persons at our reception.

Please ring the bell at our Goods-In door and announce that you are here to collect Deeside Kit with your name. Wait outside the door and your kit will be brought to you.

If the small roller shutter door is closed - please telephone the office number, 01224 295000. If the main gates are closed, we are closed.

Our policy is that non-essential personnel may NOT enter the building – so we have no facility for you to try on. If you are in any doubt about the sizes you have ordered, let me know and possibly we can do a swap or refund.

I can post out to those that want it. Let me know and I can arrange. You can easily buy postage online and send it to me; I'd need to give you weights and dimensions if you want to do this.

Any queries contact clubkit@deeside.org *Jon Strachan*

CORONAVIRUS

Stay Safe Stay Home

Follow the rule on
social distancing

Wash your hands often

Do your bit to
keep it at bay



Grampian Health Foods

Mon - Fri 9 am - 6 pm

Saturday 9 am - 5.30pm

Sunday Closed

34 Market Street

Aberdeen

Historical Reminiscences

(Part 32)

I'd entered the 100 Championships. Held on a course east of Edinburgh it would be a 2-day affair. Catching a train on the Saturday I secreted my dream machine into the carriage and set it between myself and the window.

The guard didn't show much pleasure or understanding. After a lengthy discussion, with arguments to and fro, Waverley Station appeared, and I beat a hasty retreat.

At least all those other passengers who were sitting without a ticket were pleased I kept the official busy.

Bruntsfield YH provided accommodation and I rode to the start in the early morning.

Hoping for a medal but with no support I'd need to be careful with feeding and avoiding mechanicals.

The course headed eastwards through Prestonpans and Longniddry. It was here that the back wheel started bumping. I'd no choice but stop, change the tub and blow my chances of a placing.

As I braked to a halt one of the race followers rushed up and offered me his bike. This rapid change meant my efforts could continue. Only, the bike, set up for touring had gears wide spaced and too low; conversely, the saddle too high, meant I spent the next hour wobbling side to side trying to stay in contact with the pedals.

Getting my own bike back for the second half of the event didn't give me enough time to claw back all the losses and I rode out a shattered fourth.

In 1863 a farmer, George Carr, took a lease on a farm called Westhill of Park, Drumoak. It may be found on the Aberdeen OS Map, Sheet 38 at Grid Reference 776993. Then, barren heathland, over the years he strove to improve it.

The following note comes from the Aberdeen Free Press of 5 April 1886.

The dykes, which surround the Westhill Croft measure in their own length some 1900 yards; they are from 5 ft. to 15 ft. in width, and from 5 ft. to 8 ft. in height. The stones, some of which, as we have said, are of great weight, were nearly all lifted, or sledged, into their present position by the tenant himself. No proper idea could, however, be formed of the magnitude of the labour involved without visiting the place itself. The dykes are more like a military rampart than anything else. And the visitor is disposed to be incredulous when he has told that they were all built by one man who, with the aid of his tough and hardy 'horsie', that seemed to get nearly so well accustomed to the work as himself, had actually lifted the whole material of these huge fences off the land, and no limited part of it after a stiff 'pilget' with pick and

pinch to get the individual boulders out of their earth fast beds. Yet such was the case. Under the conditions of tenancy, it was important, of course, that the reclamation should be accomplished as early as possible, and the whole place was actually brought under cultivation by the end of the first seven years.

Are the dykes George Carr strove to build still in place, for aren't those dry-stane dykes far more durable than the post and paling wire fence that have been erected over the last hundred years or so? Or will the modern farmer have desecrated the land by digging ditches with a JCB and bulldozing the thousands of tons of stone into them?

Seldom visited because of poor access, Lake Kazuni is part of the Vwaza Marsh Game Reserve in Malawi.

We'd arrived there looking at suitable accommodation for the charity ride Alastair planned for the following year.

Sitting outside our lodge drinking well-earned beer, the sun settled in a blaze of red. The last few fading flickers of light reflected off the backs of snorting animals cooling in the waters. As the evening progressed they'd come ashore to graze in the Mopane and Miombo woodland surrounding the lake.

Sitting in the dark looking out over the lake we could hear the hippos splashing out of the water. Then every now and then a lazerbeam of light would cross our vision as another firefly headed on its night mission.

To combat the inevitable insect attacks Alastair sprayed fly killer in our room and all night long we could hear the plops as another insect dropped out of the thatch.

In the morning the bloat of hippos swelled and subsided in the limpid waters of Lake Kazuni and in the dried mud, on the beach, thousands of huge, petrified footprints showed where the hippos had walked.

5 o'clock in the morning. The sun climbs gently, orange red, over the treetops. A lone seagull sweeps silently down to land on the hillside while a pheasant paces patiently by the burn side.

The only sound is that of a lark climbing upwards through the air and then a rabbit in the grass among the dandelions and daisies stamps its rear feet to have a roebuck turn its head and cock its ears.

9 o'clock in the morning and there is nothing. There is little to see or hear or enjoy. Man has got up and spoiled it for himself.

Fascinated by the adaptations to early bicycles I procured a [Watsonian sidecar](#). Fitted to my wife's bike it meant that Robert could be awheel from just after birth.

I'd be the gentleman whenever we were out together. Mary rode her [Ephgrave](#) while I struggled round with the sidecar.

To compensate the load a miniscule gear helped.

On one outing a visit to Auquhollie Lang Stane saw me grind my way uphill pass Auquhollie Cottage. There's a wee bridge here and on our return, legs spinning as fast as I could make them, I'd get over the bump no problem. Only, I lost the pedals, my left foot kicked the road, and everything summersaulted in a spectacular fashion.

On this occasion, the only thing hurt was my pride,

Lobola (dowry) has to be handed over by the prospective groom to the bride's father before marriage can take place. This lobola takes many forms. The Chronicle of July 22 reported that while a wedding ceremony was in full flow the bride's father insisted that a cell phone had to be handed over as part of the agreement.

Nsisi Sibanda, a young public relations officer for Bulawayo, stood on the City Hall steps. Her beaming smile and laughing eyes hid sadness. I asked her if she was married. "No," she told me. But she did have a daughter and in November she hoped to marry the father. Was there any reason why it wouldn't happen, I queried? "My father," she told me, "is asking for lobola."

After her mother died, her father had started seeing another woman and his attitude had changed. He was asking for two cows. Nsisi told me that she couldn't understand him. He had no land and therefore had no-where to keep the cows. Yet she and her fiancée had to go to great lengths to try and raise the money to buy the cows. She was afraid the wedding would not take place.

Alastair Brodie stood on the City Hall steps at 8.00am. He looked back along the line of 21 cyclists from Aberdeen and wondered what the hell he was letting himself in for. I stood and watched things develop and wondered why on Earth I'd listened to him in the first place. The deputy Mayor stepped forward and thanked everyone for the magnanimous gesture. He said that the already strong friendship between his city and Aberdeen City would be further cemented. He wished all the cyclists a safe and fruitful journey.

They snaked out of the city, a police vehicle in front which wailed and klaxoned along the busy streets. Seas of black faces turned and stared at the white t-shirted peloton, which had come to help the plight of street children in Bulawayo.

These children are the product of broken marriages, abandoned orphans and victims of aids. They live on the streets, surviving as best they can. Inevitably as they grow older the begging and reliance on charity will end in crime unless some rescue takes place. A number of organisations in Bulawayo are trying to help by taking children to a safe

refuge where they are taught, fed and clothed. With over 70,000 children estimated to be in a vulnerable position the hostels cannot cope.

The road to Victoria Falls from Bulawayo is 439 kilometres long. The cyclists were intent on covering much of this with a detour to a safari park and a dam on the Zambezi River.

The escorting group of Bulawayian cyclists gradually reduced in numbers until at Ticehurst they finally all abandoned. Ticehurst is a roadside shopping centre and bus stance where locals congregate. A simple meal was prepared by the support crew who then set about making their own food. This was sadza (maize meal porridge), with braai meat (barbecued steak and sausage). The cyclists joined in with the culture part and thoroughly enjoyed their first taste of real Africa.

Day one terminated at Insuza, a village with a school and police post, 82 kilometres from Bulawayo. It had been a difficult day with the inexperience of the participants obvious as they were shepherded along the busy tarmac. Alastair took the lead for much of the time while I took up the rear.

Agnes, the head teacher at Insuza, is a very small intent woman. She had staff accommodation, inadequate for her needs and several classrooms that did not provide enough teaching space. In her welcoming speech she told the cyclists that though she had appealed to many organisations for assistance to upgrade rooms the cement she had been given had to be reallocated. More pupils had been zoned to her school and the toilet blocks had to be extended. This used up the cement scheduled to floor one of the classrooms.

This classroom is in a new building that had been built from capital she had acquired from various sources but the money available had not been enough to complete the job. Apart from the earthen floor gaping holes were where window frames and glass were meant to be. Other holes served as doorways. At night, she said, the goats from the village came into the building to shelter and in the morning the room had to be cleaned out to permit teaching to take place. Her dedication to her job was obvious. There was no doubt she is committed to fulfilling the prospects of her pupils.

There was also no doubt that many of those who had come from Aberdeen to help were moved by this commitment and after the visit to her school few were able to speak for some time. Quotes to provide materials for making a floor and doors had been obtained from contractors and she was left with a gesture from the funds being raised that would ensure the goats could not get in. With inflation running at 70% she would have to continue fund raising to cover increases in cement prices before the floor could be upgraded.

Roughstuffer

Evening League 2021

Our Evening League (which started more than 50 years ago) entered it's 2021 season the last Tuesday in April.

Have you registered to take part? No? Go [here](#).

Once the registration page has been visited follow each button in order, for additional information. The series is informal, even laid back. If you're unsure how to get involved with competition this is the ideal place to start.

As always, we're desperate for volunteers to help our events run smoothly and we need three marshals for this first event. If you're minded to get involved before you start racing you may reply to this email offering your services.

The Results from the first events are available here:

<http://deeside.org/evening-league-2/evening-league-results/>

For Sale

Items will appear here for three consecutive issues. If the item sells before the final appearance, please contact knockies@aol.com so that the details can be removed.

- 1 Cervelo R3 - New bike build – 56cm – new components (excl. wheels & cassette are used). Delightfully light and nimble machine. £2,200 without, £2,450 with wheels & cassette. Contact Jon Strachan on jas@tierney-strachan.co.uk (1)
- 2 16-inch Islabike, red. Excellent condition. Suitable for age 4+. Widely accepted as one of the best quality brands. Ideal for the young cyclist who has mastered the balance bike and wants to pedal! 50% of the sale price will be donated to charity. Cost £350. Sale price: £200:00. Contact Malcolm Wilson, malcywilson@me.com 07970 227548 (1)
- 3 Whyte T-129 RS - 2017 awesome trail bike. Mint condition. Fork: FOX 34 Float Performance 29 110x15, Rear shock: FOX Float DPS Performance, Brakes: Shimano XT M8000, Drivetrain: Shimano XT M8000, Seatpost: RockShox Reverb Stealth (170 mm), Stem: Whyte Gravity Stem 40 mm, Handlebar: Whyte Custom 760 mm x 15 mm rise, Wheels: RaceFace ARC-27 with Hope PRO4 Rear Hub, Weight: 13.8 kg. Pictures and details on request. £1250. Contact Glenn Brown on glennrbrwn@gmail.com (1)
- 4 2018 Canyon Ultimate CF SLX size M. Colour grey. Ultegra groupset with Mavic Ksyrium and Dura Ace C50 carbon tubs. Excellent condition with recent service. Only ever had summer use, Dura Ace wheels & tyres are as new. Price £2,500. Contact Karl on karldaly78@yahoo.com (3)
- 5 I have a couple of kids bikes for sale:
Islabikes Beinn 20 - Red
Islabikes Beinn 24 - Blue
Both in good mechanical condition with some minor scuffs/scratches on the frames. The Beinn 24 has offroad tyres fitted but comes with a set of road tyres also. Contact Euan on e_cartlidge@hotmail.com (3)

- 6 ELLIPTICAL TRAINER - £80. Model: Pro-form 605 ZLE. Bought (£500) new in October '16. In excellent condition. Phone: 013398 86557 or email janiceborland@icloud.com (3)
- 7 Dawes Super Galaxy Tandem. Reynolds 531 tubing. Shimano Tiagra Levers and centre pull brakes. Alivio rear mech 9 speed 14/28. Tandem Crankset - 48/36/26. Mavic T520 40 spoke rims on quality Suzue sealed bearing hubs. Sella San Marco "Rolls" saddles. Complete with pannier rack. Used condition with some scratches to paintwork but no material damage. £550 or best offer. Contact Simon on schric55@gmail.com (3)
- 8 Giant TCR compact carbon frame TT bike, ONCE colourscheme. Size small, suitable for 5'6" to 5'11". Ultegra throughout, 9 speed cassette, 12 – 21T. Profile Design bar end shifters. Mavic Ksyrium Elite wheels, SPD pedals (if required), Cateye computer. Excellent first TT bike, £445 ono. dick.bird@ifb.co.uk Photo available (3)
- 9 Carbon Cervelo P3 (2015). Size 51cm. Excellent condition - only used for racing, only 250km. Ultegra spec. Mavic Cosmic Elite Wheels. Brand new Adamo Prologue Saddle - never used. Price £1750. Contact Mike Adams - 07885 933360 (3)

Wanted

- 1 A couple of pairs of a V brake callipers that are laid round doing nothing. Just trying to get a friend's bike back on the road. Please contact me on richard4750@hotmail.co.uk (2)
- 2 I'm looking for an entry level road bike for my son - he is tall at around 6' 2" so a large or extra-large frame. Please reply to Stuart on stuart-56@live.co.uk (3)

Free

- 1 I have several well used bikes that I wish to dispose. Free to anyone who collects them from our house in Aboyne. Bikes include Specialized Roubaix road bike, and a quality youth road bike with little mileage, youth mountain bike plus others. contact John Bergeland on johnbergeland@yahoo.com

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Ian Grant

Gardening: - Grass Cutting

General Tidying - Rotovation

Pressure washing - Tree Surgery,

Welding (electric) and small repairs

£9.00/hr or estimates

This small area has been reserved to persuade each member who has read this far, to invite anyone showing an interest in cycling to apply for membership of Britain's biggest cycling club

Membership Application

Name:

Address:

.....

Phone Number:.....

Email:

Date of Birth:

Please complete and return to Sandy Lindsay,
Rowan Cottage, Inveramsay, Inverurie, AB51 5DQ

Telephone 01467 681330 or email:

knockies@aol.com

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