

Issue 576

March 2022

Cranks Volume 48

The magazine of
**Deeside Thistle Cycling
Club**

Sponsored by:



Tierney Strachan
PROCESS CONTROL ENGINEERING

Current Membership 541 (578)
SCU Membership 302 (293)

Editorial:

Storms forbye, it's been an easy winter. Statistics are showing that it has been one of the top five warmest winters since records began.

Those storms? I've a tale to tell. Probably the previous similar disaster is the reason I'm sitting here typing this editorial. Though I can't categorically say I'd not be here if the storm of 31 January 1953 hadn't happened, I can say that I am here because of it.

The winds which hit the north-east and all the way down the east coast of the UK were equally devastating, maybe even more so, than Arwen and subsequently Barra, Corrie, Dudley and Eunice. Those winds in 1953 blew over much of the standing timber in and around Deeside. A salvage operation had to be put in place. Timber contractors moved in.

My father worked for one of these firms in the south-west of Scotland (I'm pleased to be a Doonhamer!). We moved lock, stock and barrel to Crathes in April post the big blow. Once the work completed my parents elected to remain in the north-east. *Voila.*

A salvage operation is once again taking place. This time there's a public-spirited urge to assist in reopening our forests and Aberdeenshire Trail Association is leading the way. Will you help? Watch this space.

PHILOSOPHER'S CORNER

*If you want to enjoy the rainbow, be
prepared to endure the storm*

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@deeside.org

David Eastwood

Joining our club in 1984 David Eastwood was a willing and able member. He took part in many aspects of our sport, competing regularly in time-trials. Latterly he'd trained as a Commissaire and as a Timekeeper. His diligence was a Godsend for our Evening League.

I first met him in 1984 on a club run which went through Rethienorman. Striking up a conversation with him it led to a respect that only intensified as I learned more about him.

A Physics Teacher to begin with, he became Head Teacher at Bankhead and Northfield Academies in Aberdeen. He also spent a short time as Head Teacher at Stranraer Academy. On retirement from Secondary Education he continued to work as a lecturer at Aberdeen University.

Not only did he teach a formal subject and steered school policies, but he also had a profound interest in fostering extra-curricular aspects of education.

David had been out for a bike ride on Tuesday 01 March. On arrival at home in Dyce, he collapsed at his door. A neighbour found him but, sadly, David has died.

Even if in his 80s, David still had a zest for life that saw him look after the sound system at Aboyne Community Centre. He also supported and competed with Aberdeen University Canoe Club as well as writing educational articles for magazines.

AJL

Up the Glax Mini Stage Race - 05 Mach 22

Spokes Racing Team organised the Up the Glax Mini Stage Race near Alford on Saturday 05 March. The Race consisted of a Prologue in the morning with a 58-mile Road Race in the afternoon.

Prologue was won with a blistering pace by Spokes RT rider Jacob Smith, closely followed by Spokes rider Lee Rosie in 2nd place and Cycle Academy rider Ciaran Mc Sherry in 3rd place, setting the scene for a competitive afternoon Road Race.

Spokes Riders Murray Lawson, Craig Patterson, Cormac McConville and Tom Gellati (Kelpi Racing) and Corey Whiteford (Cycle Academy) set out on a bold early break. The break stuck, however, Ciaran McSherry and Elijah Kwon (Cycle Academy), Jed Scott (Torvello), Neil Scott (Deeside Thistle) bridged to the break who all worked together setting up the sprint finish, where Spokes rider Murray Lawson's quality shone through, taking the Road Race win after being led out by Teammate Craig Patterson.

Well done to Ciaran McSherry who was 2nd in Road Race and for taking the overall GC.

Result

Stage1 Prologue

1 Jacob Smith SRT, 2 Lee Rosie SRT, 3 Ciaran Mc Sherry TCA, 4 Hamish MacLaren, 5 Daniel Kain SRT, 6 Murray Lawson SRT, 7 Ben McMullen TCA, 8 Finn Mason TCA, 9 James Merry VPG, 10 Elijah Kwon TCA, 11 Mark Walker DTCC, 12 Craig Paterson SRT, 13 Finn McHenry TCA, 14 Angus Joshi TCA, 15 Jon Woolrich



VSJ, 16 James Mccallum MBD, 17 Adam Baker RAFCA, 18 Corey Whiteford TCA, 19 Jed Scott TR, 20 Ben Trotter APRT, 21 Cameron Adam MRCC, 22 Thomas Gelati KR, 23 Fergus Robinson RRRT, 24 Ray Wilson RBST, 25 Calum Gibb DTCC, 26 Sam Carrotte, 27 Thomas Wisdich SRT, 28 Cormac McConville SRT, 29 Keir Gaffney SRT, 30 Neil Scott DTCC, 31 Jamie Liversidge DTCC, 32 David Ogden DTCC, 33 John Alexander DTCC, 34 Callum Reid, 35 John MacLeod HC, 36 Conal Davidson SRT, 37 Jamie Thomson SRT, 38 Alasdair Baillie SRT, 39 Daniel Sutherland RSRCC, 40 Chris Main DTCC, 41 Alexander Bond ECC, 42 Murdo MacGillivray, 43 Stephen Wilson TENS, 44 Innes Jamieson DTCC, 45 Stuart Maccallum TAAA, 46 Hugh Ramsay DTCC, 47 Alexander MacLeod DTCC

Stage 2 Road Race

1 Murray Lawson SRT, 2 Ciaran Mc Sherry TCA, 3 Craig Paterson SRT, 4 Neil Scott DTCC, 5 Elijah Kwon TCA, 6 Jed Scott TR, 7 Thomas Gelati KR, 8 Fergus Robinson RRRT, 9 Lee Rosie SRT, 10 James Merry VPG, 11 Finn Mason TCA, 12 Mark Walker DTCC, 13 Hamish MacLaren, 14 Ray Wilson RBST, 15 Keir Gaffney SRT, 16 Corey Whiteford TCA, 17 Adam Baker RAFCA, 18 Alexander MacLeod DTCC, 19 Ben McMullen TCA, 20 Calum Gibb DTCC, 21 Cameron Adam MRCC, 22 Samuel Carrotte UACC, 23 Stephen Wilson TENS, 24 Conal Davidson SRT, 25 Alasdair Baillie SRT, 26 Thomas Wisdich SRT, 27 Jamie Liversidge DTCC, 28 Chris Main DTCC, 29 Daniel Sutherland RSRCC, 30 David Ogden DTCC, 31 Innes Jamieson DTCC, 32 Jamie Thomson SRT, 33 Alexander Bond ECC, 34 John Alexander DTCC, 35 Hugh Ramsay DTCC

Overall GC

1 Ciaran Mc Sherry TCA, 2 Murray Lawson SRT, 3 Elijah Kwon TCA, 4 Craig Paterson GUCC, 5 Jed Scott TR, 6 Neil Scott DTCC, 7 Thomas Gelati KR, 8 Lee Rosie SRT, 9 Finn Mason WLCCC, 10 James Merry VPG, 11 Hamish MacLaren, 12 Mark Walker DTCC, 13 Fergus Robinson RRRT, 14 Ray Wilson RBST, 15 Keir Gaffney SRT, 16 Corey Whiteford TCA, 17 Adam Baker RAFCA, 18 Alexander MacLeod DTCC, 19 Ben McMullen TCA, 20 Calum Gibb DTCC, 21 Cameron Adam MRCC, 22 Sam Carrotte, 23 Stephen Wilson TENS, 24 Thomas Wisdich SRT, 25 Jamie Liversidge DTCC, 26 Conal Davidson SRT, 27 David Ogden DTCC, 28 Alasdair Baillie SRT, 29 Daniel Sutherland RSRCC, 30 Chris Main DTCC, 31 Innes Jamieson DTCC, 32 Jamie Thomson SRT, 33 Alexander Bond ECC, 34 John Alexander DTCC, 35 Hugh Ramsay DTCC

Evie White

A great result for Evie White in what was her first road race as a junior, taking a very creditable 6th place in the British National Junior/U23 Series Hatherleigh road race in Devon. She rode with great maturity on a tough parcours, with cross winds making things all the more challenging. Her future is very bright **Bob Lyons / Lyndsay Aitken**

Youth Update

Johnstone Jets hosted Back to the Track 2 at the Sir Chris Hoy velodrome on Saturday 21 February. Fortunately, the weather and road conditions were kind, so several DTCC youths and one junior got to race on the track. The youth riders raced several times; participating in scratch, elimination and points races. The women's races were again cancelled due to a lack of entries but junior rider, Evie White raced in a couple of 3km individual pursuits instead.

On Saturday 26 February Spokes Racing Team hosted the first event of the 2022 road season at Fife Cycle Park in Lochgelly. This was a stage event aimed at categories A and B. DTCC Youth fielded 22% of those racing and the DTCC girls made up almost half of the female field. The riders completed a time trial and two 40min to 50min races. Racing in February can be tough going and the riders turned in some strong performances and made the most of their time at Fife Cycle Park. The racing continued on Sunday with the Spokes team putting on a second day of racing. DTCC Youth and Junior was represented by two junior riders, Evie White and Jamie Liversidge.

Lyndsay Aitken

Ride Le Loop

Jackie and Stuart Fraser are off to the continent in June to ride Le Loop. This is a 21-day event which follows the route of the Tour de France one week ahead of the pros.

Stuart already has experience of the event having ridden in 2019, while Jackie, in the same year, undertook half of the stages. This time, she, too, is doing the whole thing.

Participants number about 100 or so with around 40 attempting the whole route while others will come and go; for example, some people will do the first half or second half, or some will do a set of mountain stages in the Alps or Pyrenees while one or two might attempt only a few stages at the start.

This is the website for the event which details all the different options that people can do (think it's mostly sold out) - <https://rideleloop.org/>.

There is a huge amount of information in there although some of it may be hidden in the 'rider zone' which is for participants.

In terms of training schedule Jackie and Stuart both work with Tim Mackley who has them on a program that will theoretically keep them right for the event.

They are also riding some preparation events although that has become a bit limited with all that has been going on with Covid etc. For example, they are off to do 312 in Mallorca at the end of April and also the Tour Of The Highlands 3-day event at the start of June (brilliant event).



Cycling Survey

Are you a cyclist in the UK? I'm keen to collect UK cyclist views on motivations and mobile applications as part of my thesis. Your help and time in completing the survey are greatly appreciated.

<https://northumbria.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/cyclist-motivations-and-attitudes-to-mobile-apps-final-ins>.

Any queries to **Kirk Dodds** Senior Lecturer – Marketing, Operations and Systems/Faculty of Business and Law.
Email: kirk.dodds@northumbria.ac.uk **Kirk Dodds**

Coaching Courses

Those members keen to get involved with coaching can find details of upcoming courses and funding opportunities on the SC web site. Go here:

<https://www.britishcycling.org.uk/scotland/coaching>

Trainee Commissaire Courses in 2022

British Cycling have released a number of online Trainee Commissaire Courses in 2022, Courses include BMX x 3 courses

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| Circuit | x 3 courses |
| MTB XC | x 2 courses |
| MTB Gravity | x 1 course |
| Road | x 3 courses |
| Track | x 1 course |

Currently no Cyclocross, Cycle Speedway or Time Trial courses are scheduled, but if you, or someone you know is interested please get in touch.

If anyone is interested, they should get in touch with Colin Esslemont (SC Regional Commissaire Coordinator) on montysbicycleworks@btinternet.com & Ashley Ryan (SC Event Workforce officer) events@scottishcycling.org.uk and we can arrange for them to link up with an active official to chat more about the role and send on sign up links.
Colin Esslemont

Club Committee

At our AGM in January the committee to run your club for the next year was elected. Unfortunately, a few positions could not be filled.

Principal among these were someone to help look after Event and Championship Management, and a person to maintain a presence on Social Media and the local press.

We also need a new Welfare and Protection Officer.

If you are interested please get in touch with me on info@deeside.org.
AJL

SCNEG Update

Here's our proposed calendar for 2022: The links take you directly to the event on National Calendar. These will continue to be updated during the season.

| | | |
|--------|--|------|
| 23 Mar | Mount Keen Challenge | Roy |
| 02 Apr | Haddo Dirt Crit | YCC |
| 03 Apr | Spring Bunny 25TT | DTCC |
| 16 Apr | RKL RR | DTCC |
| 21 Apr | Evening RR | YCC |
| 12 May | Evening RR | VC |
| 22 May | La Course de Quines | AWCC |
| 08 Jun | 10TT | YCC |
| 12 Jun | Quines HTT | AWCC |
| 18 Jun | Ladies RR | TENs |
| 22 Jun | Massie Shield | YCC |
| 30 Jun | Evening RR | DTCC |
| 8Jul | NE 250 | Roy |
| 9Jul | NE 250 | Roy |
| 10 Jul | 10TT | DTCC |
| 17 Jul | Methlick Cycle Challenge | |
| 28 Jul | Evening RR | TEN |
| 07 Aug | 100TT | AWCC |
| 13 Aug | Jolibar RR | DTCC |
| 21 Aug | Youth Crit | YCC |
| 04 Sep | ToB Start | |
| 11 Sep | 10TT Champs | TEN |
| 18 Sep | Classy 10TT | AWCC |
| 18 Sep | H/C Champs | AWCC |

Spring Bunny 25TT

The Spring Bunny 25-mile TT is on
Sunday 3rd April on the Echt, Carnie,
Millbank, circuit

We need helpers and marshal's

Please contact Dave Walton on
j.d.walton@btinternet.com



Coronavirus Update

Go to the SC website [here](#) where there is a short article providing some key considerations to make regarding activity.

All limits on group sizes and physical distancing have been lifted but for the time being, as the Test & Protect system continues in operation, it will still be necessary to maintain a register of attendees to ensure that people can be traced as contacts of positive cases.

This will be constantly reviewed. *Scottish Cycling*

SPOND Guide for Riders and Ride Leaders

What has been established through SPOND will help leaders arrange outings with greater benefits for participants.

Please find below a link to the SPOND Guide for riders and ride leaders that Andy Kerr, Neil Stables and David Stewart have put together. It shows you how to Register for SPOND and how to request membership of a DTCC Group. It lists the various Groups which are already in place, and these will be added to as more official runs restart.

Link to [SPOND Guide](#)

Tour of Britain 2022

Never before will the Tour of Britain have started so far north than when Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire host the race's Grand Départ on Sunday 4 September, one year on from the region welcoming the final stage of the 2021 race.

The Tour will start in the city of Aberdeen, where a full weekend of activities to run alongside the race, including the Scottish National Criterium Championships will take place. The stage will finish in spectacular style elsewhere in Aberdeenshire, taking a different route to the one raced in 2021, which will bring the event into the heart of brand-new communities.

Stage 2 is also in Scotland with routes still under discussion.

Any thoughts or ideas for support events? Please contact me on colinallanach@aol.com *Colin Allanach*

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.

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

Buchan Formartine Way

The Buchan Formartine Way, north of Dyce to just short of Newmachar, is to close from the start of the New Year into March. If you use this route for leisure, commuting or training, then the first access point is from the road junction at NJ 894 180. Diversions are on the A974 Newmachar road or the C22C minor road from Parkhill to Newmachar.

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](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#)

New Members

The following new or returning members have joined in recent weeks

| | | | |
|------|----------------|------------|----|
| 1980 | Kevin Watson | Aberdeen | 34 |
| 3047 | Kevin McCool | Portlethen | 44 |
| 3048 | Calum McIntyre | Aberdeen | 25 |

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.

Ian Grant

Gardening: - Grass Cutting
General Tidying - Rotovation
Pressure washing - Tree Surgery,
Welding (electric) and small repairs
£9.00/hr or estimates

30 Sclattie Park, Bucksburn, Aberdeen

Tel (01224) 713033

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.



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

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>

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

Please assist at
events when asked

we are
cycling
UK



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 Representative

| | | |
|---------------------|-----|--------------|
| 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 mls.
- 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.
LIGHTS

Runs

March

Sat 19-Mar Slower Full Day 09:30 Leggart Terrace, Coffee at Skateraw Store, Newtonhill (07841 209044), lunch at Waterfront Cafe Bar, Stonehaven (01569 762912). Imogen B
 Sun 20-Mar Faster Full Day 09:00 Parkhill Bridge, Dyce, Coffee at Lochters, Oldmeldrum (01651 872000/78), lunch at Morgan McVeighs, Culsalmond (01464 841399). Alberto
 Sun 20-Mar Morning Run 09:30 Seaton Park, St Machar Cathedral Entrance, Coffee at Craibstone Golf Club, Craibstone (01224 716777). Dave H
 Sun 20-Mar Try Cycling 10:00 Westburn Park, Westburn House, Short easy rides, all welcome. Mike
 Thu 24-Mar Thursday Run 09:30 Airyhall Library, Destination to be decided on the day, morning ride coffee stop. Cindy
 Sat 26-Mar Medium Full Day 09:30 Parkhill Bridge, Dyce, Coffee at Ross's Coffee Shop, Inverurie (01467 620764), lunch at Kellockbank, Inch (01464 851114). John S
 Sat 26-Mar Try Cycling 10:00 Duthie Park, Riverside Drive, Short easy rides, all welcome. John P
 Sun 27-Mar Faster Full Day 09:00 Airyhall Library, Coffee at Milton Brasserie, Milton of Crathes (01330 844566), lunch at Belwade Farm, Aboyne (013398-85398). David B
 Sun 27-Mar Morning Run 09:30 Brig O Balgownie, Coffee at The Barn, Foveran (01358 788707). Alan
 Thu 31-Mar Thursday Run 09:30 Airyhall Library, Destination to be decided on the day, morning ride coffee stop. Cindy

April

Sat 2 Apr Faster Full Day 09:00 B & Q, Bridge of Don, Coffee at Cafe 48, Pitmedden (01651 842346), lunch at Aden Country Park (01771 624590) Doug
 Sat 2 Apr Morning Run 09:30 Duthie Park, Riverside Drive, Coffee at Green Pastures Cafe, Westhill Imogen B
 Sun 3 Apr Slower Full Day 09:30 Westhill Shopping Centre, Coffee at Marshall's Farm Shop, Kinellar (01224 790493), lunch at Morris's Hotel, Oldmeldrum (01651 872224) Tom S
 Sun 3 Apr Try Cycling 10:00 Seaton Park, Don St Entrance, Short easy rides, all welcome. Moira
 Wed 6 Apr AGM 19:00 Via Zoom, Any Members wishing to attend, should register their interest by email to the Secretary, Sheila Tuckwood (secretary@ctcgrampian.org.uk) by Monday 4th April. A link to the meeting will be sent out to all those who register their interest, shortly before the meeting. Sheila
 Thu 7 Apr Thursday Run 09:30 Airyhall Library, Destination to be decided on the day, morning ride coffee stop. Cindy
 Sat 9 Apr Faster Full Day 09:00 Westhill Shopping Centre, Coffee at Ross's Coffee Shop, Inverurie (01467 620764), lunch at Bistro, Alford (019755 63154) John S
 Sat 9 Apr Morning Run 09:30 Four Mile House, Kingswells, Coffee at Marshall's Farm Shop, Kinellar Alan
 Sat 9 Apr Try Cycling 10:00 Hazlehead, Groats Rd Car Park, Short easy rides, all welcome. John C

Sun 10 Apr Medium Full Day 09:30 Westhill Shopping Centre, Coffee at Cafe 83, Kemnay (01467 207060), lunch at Dess Activity Park, Aboyne (013398 83536) John T
 Wed 13 Apr Pub Run 19:30 Duthie Park, Riverside Drive to Shepherds Rest, Westhill John B
 Thu 14 Apr Thursday Run 09:30 Airyhall Library, Destination to be decided on the day, morning ride coffee stop. Cindy
 Sat 16 Apr Gravel Ride 09:00 Airyhall Library, picnic coffee at Tappie Hill Alberto
 Sat 16 Apr Slower Full Day 09:30 Brig O Balgownie, Coffee at Trellis Coffee Shop, Newburgh (01358 789989), lunch at Murly Tuck Cafe, Tarves (01651 851489) Dave H
 Sun 17 Apr Faster Full Day 09:00 Peterculter (West End), Coffee at Raemoir Garden Centre, Banchory (01330 825059), lunch at Commercial Hotel, Tarland (01339 881922) Jacqui
 Sun 17 Apr Morning Run 09:30 Seaton Park St Machar Entrance, The Chanonry, Coffee at Parkhill Garden Centre, Parkhill (01224 722167) Heather
 Sun 17 Apr Try Cycling 10:00 Duthie Park, Riverside Drive, Short easy rides, all welcome. Mike
 Thu 21 Apr Thursday Run 09:30 Airyhall Library, Destination to be decided on the day, morning ride coffee stop. Cindy
 Sat 23 Apr Medium Full Day 09:30 Peterculter (West End), Coffee at Raemoir Garden Centre, Banchory (01330 825059), lunch at Bistro, Alford (019755 63154) Rod
 Sat 23 Apr Try Cycling 10:00 Seaton Park, Don St Entrance, Short easy rides, all welcome. Peter S
 Sun 24 Apr Faster Full Day 09:00 Parkhill Bridge, Dyce, Coffee at Inverurie Garden Centre, Inverurie (01467 621402), picnic lunch at Leith Hall, Kennethmont Alberto
 Sun 24 Apr Morning Run 09:30 Brig O Balgownie, Coffee at The Barn, Foveran (01358 788707) Cindy
 Wed 27 Apr Pub Run 19:30 Hazlehead Park, Groats Rd Car Park to Bieldside Inn, Bieldside Alan
 Thu 28 Apr Thursday Run 09:30 Airyhall Library, Destination to be decided on the day, morning ride coffee stop. Cindy
 Sat 30 Apr Faster Full Day 09:00 Old Mill Inn, Maryculter, Coffee at Kirktown Garden Centre, Stonehaven (01569 764343), picnic lunch at Edzell, via Cairn O Mount Andy G
 Sat 30 Apr Morning Run 09:30 Airyhall Library, Coffee at Slate and Grain Brasserie, Chapelton of Elsick John S
May
 Sun 1 May Slower Full Day 09:30 Airyhall Library, Coffee at Milton Brasserie, Milton of Crathes (01330 844566), picnic lunch at Forest of Birse Church Heather
 Sun 1 May Try Cycling 10:00 Hazlehead, Groats Rd Car Park, Short easy rides, all welcome. Moira
 Thu 5 May Thursday Run 09:30 Airyhall Library, Destination to be decided on the day, morning ride coffee stop. Cindy
 Sat 7 May Faster Full Day 09:00 Peterculter (West End), Coffee at Ride Coffee House, Banchory (01330 820946), picnic lunch at Burn O Vat David B
 Sat 7 May Morning Run 09:30 Torry Battery Car Park, Coffee at Skateraw Store, Newtonhill (07841 209044) Imogen B
 Sat 7 May Try Cycling 10:00 Westburn Park, Westburn House, Short easy rides, all welcome. John C
 Sun 8 May Gravel Ride 09:00 Airyhall Library, picnic coffee at Durris Forest, lunch at Kirktown Garden Centre, Stonehaven (01569 764343) Alberto
 Sun 8 May Medium Full Day 09:30 Old Mill Inn, Maryculter, Coffee at Kirktown Garden Centre, Stonehaven (01569 764343), picnic lunch at Drumtochty Glen Doug
 Wed 11 May Pub Run 19:30 Woodend Hospital, Eday Rd to Brig O Don, King St Alberto
 Thu 12 May Thursday Run 09:30 Airyhall Library, Destination to be decided on the day, morning ride coffee stop. Cindy
 Sat 14 May Slower Full Day 09:30 Four Mile House, Kingswells, Coffee at Balmedie Leisure Centre, Balmedie (01358 742003), picnic lunch at Prop of Ythsie, Tarves Sheila



Sun 15 May Faster Full Day 09:00 Westhill Shopping Centre, Coffee at Bistro, Alford, picnic lunch at Rhyinie John S

Sun 15 May Morning Run 09:30 Hazlehead, Groats Rd Car Park, Coffee at Floras Coffee and Refill, Cullerlie Cindy

Sun 15 May Try Cycling 10:00 Duthie Park, Riverside Drive, Short easy rides, all welcome. Mike

Thu 19 May Thursday Run 09:30 Airyhall Library, Destination to be decided on the day, morning ride coffee stop. Dave H

Sat 21 May Medium Full Day 09:30 Westhill Shopping Centre, Coffee at Forest Cafe, Midmar, picnic lunch at Aboyne Rod

Sat 21 May Try Cycling 10:00 Seaton Park, Don St Entrance, Short easy rides, all welcome. John P

Sun 22 May Faster Full Day 09:00 Parkhill Bridge, Dyce, Coffee at Kellockbank, Inch, picnic lunch at Rothiemay John B

Sun 22 May Morning Run 09:30 Footdee Roundhouse, Coffee at Parkhill Garden Centre, Parkhill Alan

Wed 25 May Pub Run 19:30 Tesco, Danestone to Ferryhill House Hotel, Bon Accord St John B

Thu 26 May Thursday Run 09:30 Airyhall Library, destination to be decided on the day, morning ride with coffee stop. Alan

Sat 28 May Faster Full Day 09:00 Old Mill Inn, Maryculter, Coffee at Kondit Bakery, Inverbervie (01561 361221), picnic lunch at Drumtochty Glen Jacqui

Sat 28 May Morning Run 09:30 Woodend Hospital, Eday Rd, Coffee at Craibstone Golf Club, Craibstone Dave H

Sun 29 May Slower Full Day 09:30 Duthie Park, Riverside Drive, Coffee at Slate and Grain Brasserie, Chapelton of Elsick (07483 332649), picnic lunch at Riverside, Banchory John T

Sun 29 May Try Cycling 10:00 Hazlehead, Groats Rd Car Park, Short easy rides, all welcome. Moira

June

Thu 2 Jun Thursday Run 09:30 Airyhall Library, Destination to be decided on the day, morning ride coffee stop. Cindy

Sat 4 Jun Faster Full Day 09:00 B & Q, Bridge of Don, Coffee at Pitmedden Gardens, Pitmedden (01651 842352), picnic lunch at Bullers of Buchan Andy G

Sat 4 Jun Morning Run 09:30 Brig O Balgownie, Coffee at The Barn, Foveran (01358 788707) Cindy

Sat 4 Jun Try Cycling 10:00 Duthie Park, Riverside Drive, Short easy rides, all welcome. Peter S

Sun 5 Jun Gravel Ride 09:00 Airyhall Library, Coffee at Ride Coffee House, Banchory (01330 820946), lunch at Clatterin Brig Cafe, Fettercairn (01561 340297) Alberto

Sun 5 Jun Medium Full Day 09:30 Parkhill Bridge, Dyce, Coffee at Lochters, Oldmeldrum (01651 872000/78), picnic lunch at Fyvie Castle, Fyvie Rod

Wed 8 Jun Pub Run 19:30 Woodend Hospital, Eday Rd to Broadstrak Inn, Elrick Alan

Thu 9 Jun Thursday Run 09:30 Airyhall Library, Destination to be decided on the day, morning ride coffee stop. Cindy

Sat 11 Jun Slower Full Day 09:30 Hazlehead, Groats Rd Car Park, Coffee at Floras Coffee and Refill, Cullerlie (07821 221360), picnic lunch at Monymusk Park, Monymusk Tom S

Sun 12 Jun Faster Full Day 09:00 Westhill Shopping Centre, Coffee at Bistro, Alford, picnic lunch at Strathdon David B

Sun 12 Jun Morning Run 09:30 Four Mile House, Kingswells, Coffee at Forest Cafe, Midmar (01330 830000) Dave H

Sun 12 Jun Try Cycling 10:00 Seaton Park, Don St Entrance, Short easy rides, all welcome. John C

Thu 16 Jun Thursday Run 09:30 Airyhall Library, Destination to be decided on the day, morning ride coffee stop. Cindy

Sat 18 Jun Medium Full Day 09:30 B & Q, Bridge of Don, Coffee at The Coffee Apothecary, Ellon (01358 721946), picnic lunch at Aden Country Park John S

Sat 18 Jun Try Cycling 10:00 Hazlehead, Groats Rd Car Park, Short easy rides, all welcome. John P

Sun 19 Jun Faster Full Day 09:00 Parkhill Bridge, Dyce, Coffee at Murly Tuck Cafe, Tarves (01651 851489), picnic lunch at Delgatie Castle, Turriff John B

Sun 19 Jun Morning Run 09:30 Airyhall Library, Coffee at Mains of Drum Garden Centre, Drumoak (01330 811000) Alan

Wed 22 Jun Pub Run 19:30 Duthie Park, Riverside Drive to Marine Hotel, Stonehaven, Return by train Alberto

Thu 23 Jun Thursday Run 09:30 Airyhall Library, Destination to be decided on the day, morning ride coffee stop. Cindy

Sat 25 Jun Faster Full Day 09:00 Old Mill Inn, Maryculter, Coffee at Raemoir Garden Centre, Banchory (01330 825059), picnic lunch at Ballater Alberto

Sat 25 Jun Morning Run 09:30 Woodend Hospital, Eday Rd, Coffee at Marshall's Farm Shop, Kinellar Cindy

Sun 26 Jun Slower Full Day 09:30 Duthie Park, Riverside Drive, Coffee at The Sitting Room, Portlethen (01224 781777), picnic lunch at Stonehaven Harbour Heather

Sun 26 Jun Try Cycling 10:00 Westburn Park, Westburn House, Short easy rides, all welcome. Mike

Thu 30 Jun Thursday Run 09:30 Airyhall Library, Destination to be decided on the day, morning ride coffee stop. Cindy

25 Years Ago

The 1997 season is underway. Early performances have been returned and everyone is looking towards a good season. There has been little winter. Strong winds maybe but some weekends were good enough for shorts and no gloves.

In front the important questions are have you got your handbook? Have you joined the SCU, how soon will the information about the Evening League be released?

Well, the handbooks are here.

Your SCU Membership? It's up to you. There has been a lot said over the past year or so about the inadequacies of current bodies but things are slowly sorting out and I think that before too long a single body will control our sport and pastime. I have no axe to grind one way or the other and for many years was a member of both the CTC and SCU.

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Meeting Synopsis

A Finance and Management Committee meeting took place on-line, on Monday 14 March 2022. In attendance were Andrew Harrington, Sandy Lindsay, Gavin Baxter, Sam Long, John Sands, Laura Sarkis, Peter Smart, Neil Stables, Jon Strachan, David Walton and Steve Walton.

Agenda

- 1 **Apologies** – Colin Esslemont and Mark Walker,
- 2 **Minutes of Previous Meeting** – Accepted as correct record
- 3 **Business Arising from Minute**
 - a) To be dealt with in New Business
- 4 **New Business**
 - a) **Fundraising** – Models to provide funding to cover coaching and competition costs were presented. The feasibility of these is to be investigated
 - b) **Committee Member** – John Sands was elected to the Club's Finance and Management Committee, moved by A Lindsay and A Harrington
 - c) **Evening League** – A Calendar for the 2022 League is under preparation. Currently there is a shortage of timekeepers, but this will be addressed by advertising for replacements. The whereabouts of club watches is to be confirmed. Covid Rules will continue in place but relaxed where legislation allows. A sub-committee meeting for the league will be organised
 - d) **Youth Update** – The current financial position of the Club's Youth Group was outlined. Coaching costs have been assisted by grants but costs for qualifications are often met by individuals. The hire of coaching facilities is met by the club. 2022 costs are to be estimated
 - e) **Donation from Ally Ross** – It was agreed that an annual bursary of £100 be awarded, moved A Harrington and S Long. A motivational event is to be organised, likely a barbecue at Knockburn
 - f) **Wheel Park** – Ythan Cycle Club is working on the construction of a Wheel Park at Ellon. Though much of the planning costs have been met, in order to progress further funding is required and they hope that local clubs may be able to assist. Several other groups are trying to set up similar projects in the area which will also require funding and we already have a major commitment to Knockburn. It was agreed to contact YCC indicating commitments but also to ask how much funding is expected
 - g) **Aberdeenshire Trail Association** – The aftermath of winter storms on mountain bike trails and facilities throughout the north-east was outlined. ATA require funding and practical help to reinstate infrastructure. Already this is coming from bike shops and donations, but further assistance is essential. A formal proposal is to be prepared
- 5 **Next Meeting – Monday 09 May 2022 at 7.00pm**

Historical Reminiscences

(Part 42)

At school, Douggie Sim was a *shilpit wee craitur*. One of the smallest in our year, he looked as if a puff of wind would blow him away.

After we both headed our own ways into the world, Douggie and I didn't meet up again for a number of years.

Advertised as a dispenish sale at the Smithy near Mill of Barras, a mile or so from Roadside of Catterline, I cycled across to see if I could pick up a bargain or two. There was Douggie, standing on a tractor trailer.

His father, who'd died, had been the blacksmith, and his business was under the auctioneer's hammer.

All day Douggie stood on the trailer and every tool, every hammer and anvil, every rod of iron, had to be hoisted to shoulder height and higher to display it to the eager bidders.

Shilpit? Anything but.

The Netherley road out of Stonehaven climbs a stiff brae. It's called the Pow Bare (I don't know why) and runs parallel to the Megray Burn.

Away back in the early 1960s I'd first come down that hill taking great caution, for at the top, fixed to a pole, a sign displayed the message "*Caution, this hill dangerous to Cyclists*". It disappeared, presumably consigned to a rubbish heap by the *cooncil*. When my interest in the history of cycling developed I searched in vain for that cautionary sign. My plan to salvage and mount it on the road into the cottage where I lived came to naught.

In the late 60s we'd a road-race commemorating the genius of [R W Thomson](#) which in one of its configurations incorporated the hill. Philip Duncan let his bike go on the descent and failed to negotiate the right-angled left hander at the bottom. If only that sign had still been in place.

Rows of despondent looking tourists lined the roadside and peered at the grey clouds stuck to the mountaintops. We stood a short distance removed. and wondered if this would be another day of pedalling into the cloud ceiling, getting soaked, risking hypothermia, or would the weather clear. A few spots of rain blotted on our tops.

Then, scudding across the slopes of Ben Earb, above the tree line, came a verdant patch. Pushed out of the west by a stiffish breeze this lump of sunlight reflected off the green bracken and gave promise for the day ahead.

Dalmunzie House is a hotel situated at the end of a stretch of tarmac just a mile and a half northwest from the Spittal of Glenshee. We headed that way, past the sylvan birch on



the bank of the burn that spills out of Glens Taitneach and Lochsie. Away in front a steep track could be seen disappearing into the cloud ceiling on Glas Tulaichean. Skirting the hotel we crossed the railway and followed a rough track towards the mountain.

Plans had been laid a hundred years ago to build a railway up Ben Nevis but this never happened. Instead, Scotland's only mountain railway was built in Glen Lochsie. It ran from Glenlochsie Farm, behind Dalmunzie House, to the bottom of Glas Tulaichean. Initially built to carry quarried material from the mountain to facilitate alterations and extensions to Dalmunzie House, it was only 2 miles long with a zig-zag mid-way where wagons and engines were winched to a higher level. Constructed in 1920 it soon became an important part of the estate work when it ferried stalkers and their ghillies on to the grouse moors and deer forests. On the return journey it carried carcasses on flat bed rolling stock while seats in the passenger carriages were reversed so that folk could face the direction of travel. The line is now gone but the track bed still exists. Dalmunzie House dates to 1907 replacing an earlier ruined castle. In the 1920s the owner, Sir Archibald Birkmyre, considerably enlarged it.

Just past the farm is a small pond, now overgrown, with a tiny paddleboat upturned on the bank. We spied a thrashing in the water. This under a floating carpet of what looked like flies, water beetles or maybe pond skippers. A feeding frenzy must be going on; voracious predator pike were gorging themselves. However, the prey didn't diminish in numbers. The boiling water went calm, only to suddenly start up again after a few seconds. This went on for ages and continued as the we headed further up the glen leaving behind an unsolved mystery.

Rising gradually through the glen with the wicked little Z bend at half distance the track reaches ruined Glenlochsie Lodge. This lodge was well used until the Second World War when service men on training exercises were allowed to use it for target practice. Hidden in the grass and heather there is a quaint little platform at the terminus of the line and a rickety old bridge provides a precarious crossing over the Allt Clais Mhor. Two 20hp petrol powered engines were used on this line. The first, 'Dalmunzie', entered service in 1920 and 'Glenlochsie', an identical vehicle, joined her the following year. The line closed in 1978.

A steep track leads up the south slopes onto the montane region of Glas Tulaichean. Sweat flowed freely as we struggled in lowest gears on the rock littered track but managed to cycle much of the way.

It is a high Munro at 1051m and as we climbed panoramic views of much of the Cairngorm came into view. Halfway up the climb the track eased, and soaked clothes began to cool in the light wind that blew in from Glen Tilt. The cloud ceiling broke and as it drifted overhead mountains came and went from view. Ben Vrackie appeared, black

shadowed to the south with Beinn A'Ghlo brightly lit in the west.

A previous visit had required compass work near the top but this time we were luckier. The top would be reached in improving conditions. However, coming to the end of the track the clouds lowered and a cooling vapour settled on bare arms. Worried a little that there'd be a repeat with limited visibility we turned right off the marked route and climbed onwards.

Hovering above us in the gentle wind and just within seeing distance loomed the immense black shape of the seldom seen creaghe. It stooped low over sheep grazing on the mountain scurvy grass. Then, alighting on a rock about 50 yards away its black shape faded into grey as a denser cloud moved in.

The Cairngorms harbour a number of rare birds, like the Dotterel, Scottish Crossbill and Capercaillie. Living on inhospitable plateaus or in receding Scottish pinewoods their existence seems precarious. However, even with the burgeoning population of red deer and ever-increasing recreational use they survive.

Reaching the summit as the cloud lifted we checked out the ridge edge, looking down a near vertical slope into Glas Choire Mhor. Leaf-like patterns of dry storm streams lined the valley floor. To the south red deer grazed on the steep slopes of the corrie. It wasn't cold but the efforts on the climb had soaked us with sweat and quickly body temperature dropped. Donning jackets we flopped down to eat our jammie pieces, only to find another cloud appearing. This time a swarm of *Culicoides Impunctatus*, the Highland Midge, exploded from the shelter of *calluna vulgaris*. Now, a lot is written about this neighbour. Machines have been invented to keep them at bay, but let it be known that they are in such vast numbers that it will take a bit more than an assault like on the Passenger Pigeon to eradicate them. Then, think again; the Scottish mountains are the idyllic place they are because of the solitude you can always find whenever and everywhere you go. Without the midge the mountains would be more attractive to more people and think what the swarms would be then. And think about the fragile environment of the rare wildlife, some of which depend on the midge as a food source.

Suddenly the sinister and amplified shape of the Creaghe returned, this time with its partner. They glided in silently out of the cloud ceiling. Circling the mountaintop for a few minutes the two birds eventually croaked to each other before swooping like the wind down into the valley to a distant corvid nesting place.

From the summit we looked north over many other summits, Beinn Iutheran Mhor, An Socach, as far north as the Lairig Ghru and its sentinels of Beinn Macdui and Braeriach, most of them climbed.



Having eaten we mounted and followed the ridge northwards, descending rapidly, only stopping to have another scratch at the irritated red bumps growing on arms and faces. Swinging east we shot past a massive lump of startlingly white rock. This quartz was soon well to the rear as we reached the steep, uncycleable slopes into Gleann Taitneach. Deer, like Red Indians lined the skyline.

It was a memorable 4¼ hours in the mountains, especially since the weather had been good. Few folk had been met to disturb the peace, only a handful of dour walkers from the bus, who didn't seem to respond well to the cheery hellos. It will also be memorable for the fact that Naismith claims a round trip of 6½ hours.

My eldest on New Year's Day took me along a track I'd often seen and always passed by. It led to the farm of Uras, near Barras, where shelter was found from the heavy rain.

Warmth from a hip flask fortified the return leg. It was only a few miles but started 2005 on the right note.

Then a few days later my youngest took me out over Dunnydeer Hill. Back on the tarry stuff I said the wind would blow us back to Inch – or we could turn right up Flinders Hill. *You've given me a challenge was the reply.*

On top of Flinders the bikes lifted like flags in the wind. We couldn't stand upright.

Reaching the Devil road, bare surface was met and a spanking pace was kept up until once more the road surface deteriorated. Traffic was heavy with skiers heading to Scotland's little Switzerland and a speeding landrover nearly brought us off as we all headed into a bank of drifting snow. An AA patrolman gave a cheery wave and "*it's easy now*" as we came to the steepest part, the Elbow itself. The temperature must have been close to freezing but on the way up sweat couldn't have run more freely. It was with thankful gasps we crossed Cairnwell and freewheeled to the snackbar.

Continuing then, over unbroken snow, Iain and Doug, with more nerve than sense, sped on leaving Phil and I to do some hard chasing once the roads cleared.

By the time the Pass of Ballater was reached all the snow had gone. Oil for bikes was obtained at Dinnet and oil for bodies in a bar at Aboyne. Then with legs starting to ache by Banchory, but with the wind still helping, Iain and Doug headed to Park, looking for the short distance men while Phil and I went to Cove via Aberdeen to give us a total of 170 miles for the two days, a good mileage for any winter's weekend. Especially good for that one.. ***Roughstuffer***

