

Issue 578

May 2022

Cranks Volume 49

The magazine of
**Deeside Thistle Cycling
Club**

Sponsored by:



Tierney Strachan
PROCESS CONTROL ENGINEERING

Current Membership 566 (578)
SCU Membership 306 (306)

Editorial:

Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils seem to be embracing the cycling culture. They are laying on a feast of entertainment in September when the Gran Depart of the 2022 Tour of Britain happens on our roads. A plethora of events, prior to the International send off, is scheduled.

There has also been a poll taken on the north-east's top climbs, Aberdeenshire Ascents. The top ten have been named and highlighted with signs at top and bottom of each climb. These were officially launched a couple of weeks ago and received favourable exposure on National television.

The climbs are Cabrach, Cairn o'Mount, Cairnwell, Causey Mouth, Gairnshiel, Lecht, My Lord's Throat, Queen's View, Pennan to New Aberdour, and Suie.

They're all epic climbs in their own way and when you get the chance over the next few months do try to conquer them. I've already done half of them since the launch!

The 2022 Tour of Britain, on Day 1, will take the riders over a few of the climbs finishing with the lung bursting Cairnwell. The organisers are quoted as saying that this is the first ever major International Tour to have a mountain top finish on the first Stage.

More details of the tour, and the circus around it, will emerge over the next few months and you must not miss the opportunity to get involved.

PHILOSOPHER'S CORNER

It's just a hill – get over it

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

Grampian Evening RR Series Event 1 YCC 30 ml RR 21 April 2022

This demanding course consists of 3 laps of a seven-mile circuit comprising Kinharrachie, Ythanbank, Raxton Brae and Ardlethen. On the first 2 laps the riders will descent Ardlethen, cross the bridge over the Ythan and will turn left at the Kinharrachie junction. On the 3rd and final lap, the riders will finish just before the Kinharrachie junction.

1 Calum Gibb DTCC 29 mls in 1:27:17, 2 Callum Slade BPC @ 1s, 3 Lee Rosie SRT @ st, 4 Mark Walker DTCC @ 2s, 5 Thomas Gelati KR @ 3.37, 6 Jamie Liversidge DTCC @ 3.38, 7 Matiss Robertson RT23, 8 David Ogden DTCC all @ st, 9 Jamie Chree DTCC @ 3.39, 10 Neil Scott DTCC, 11 Tom Merry WCC, 12 Richard Harris DTCC all @ st, 13 Cameron Brown SRT @ 5.06, 14 Sean Delaney VCRT 5.25, 15 Steven Sharp TEN, 16 Peter Davies, 17 David Paterson PPRT all @ st, 18 Stuart King YCC @ 7.09, 19 Evie White DTCC @ 7.17, 20 David Duggan @ 7.22, 21 Innes Jamieson DTCC @ 8.14, 22 Morgan Ormrod-Livingstone @ 8.20, 23 Stephen Wilson TEN @ 8.56, 24 Calum Cormack DTCC @ 9.52, 25 Jamie Riddoch ECC @ 11.44, 26 David McKay DTCC @ 11.45, 27 Alexander Bond ECC, 28 Coralie Arthur all @ st, 29 Christopher Ashton DTCC @ 11.50, 30 Erin Murphy DTCC @ st, 31 Tom Gillibrand @ 11.51, 32 Jason Edge RNRMC @ 11.55, 33 Alistair Swan @ @ st, 34 Calum Smith DTCC @ 17.14, 35 Ian Vaughan DTCC @ st, 36 Lorna Breetzke @ 17.16, 37 Rosalyn Payne @ 22.55, 38 Amy Curtis @ 22.57, 39 Rachel Hardman @ 24.10, 40 Roz Boynton @ 28.44, 41 Vicky Woodburn @ 28.49

Grampian Evening RR Series Event 2 TEN 12 May 2022

Men

1 Jacob Smith SRT, 2 Daniel Kain SRT, 3 Lee Rosie SRT, 4 Thomas Gelati KR, 5 Matiss Robertson RT23, 6 Neil Scott DTCC, 7 Jamie Chree DTCC, 8 Mark Walker DTCC, 9 Jamie Liversidge DTCC, 10 David Ogden DTCC, 11 Alexander MacLeod DTCC, 12 Mark Madigan MGC RT, 13 Richard Harris DTCC, 14 Simon Arnot TAAA, 15 David Duggan, 16 Alan Smith YCC, 17 Stuart King YCC, 18 Lewis Dey, 19 Tim Mackley VCRT, 20 Rory McGuckien DTCC, 21 John Alexander DTCC, 22 Steven Sharp, 23 Stephen Wilson TEN, 24 Robert Cowie AWCC, 25 Innes Jamieson DTCC, 26 Hugh Ramsay DTCC, 27 Steve Rae YCC, 28 Calum Cormack DTCC, 29 Sam Glover ECC, 30 Alexander Bond ECC, 31 Andrew Simpson DTRC, 32 Tim Mikelj ECC

Women

1 Coralie Arthur WEZ, 2 Sally Devlin, 3 Zosia Martin TR



Youth Update

Weekend 23/24 April

Jun/U23 National Series at Bovington Tank Museum. Evie White raced in the second round of the Jun/U23 National series at Bovington Tank Museum in Dorset. Evie was in good company, the race also included junior world champion Zoe Backstedt in her rainbow stripes. Evie finished in the peloton in 9th place overall and 5th junior.

Round 2 - Scottish Cycling Youth Circuit Race series - The youth section was also in action at the weekend. The second round of the Scottish Cycling Youth Circuit Race series took place at Kames Motor Circuit; it was a mix of a challenging course and windy conditions. 14 DTCC youths raced meaning that Deeside Thistle was represented in most categories and took eight podium positions.

13 DTCC youth and junior riders took part in the Isle of Man Youth Tour this weekend. The racing took place on closed roads and included a 1.5km time trial and two road races.

Eden Thomson was 2nd Youth D girl on overall GC and Melanie Rowe took 2nd place on overall GC in the B girls category. Melanie also won the points jersey for her category. The B girls team made up of Melanie Rowe and Hope Thomson (along with two riders from other clubs) won the youth B girls team prize.

Weekend 30/31 April

Two youth A girls headed to South Wales this weekend to take part in the Pembrey 2-day National Youth Series event. Molly Evans and Arabella Blackburn completed a prologue and three Crit races during the course of the weekend. Arabella finished 10th on GC and Molly 13th.

Somewhat closer to home Ross Easthaugh took part in round 3 of the National XC Series at Lochore. The race took place over a 4.3-mile course with riders completing 3 laps of the course which included climbing, a technical downhill section and a lot of fast flowing sections.

Weekend 14/15 May

8 DTCC Youth riders (7 girls and 1 boy) made the trip to Cheshire to take part in the 360 Cycling Oulton Park Festival and Youth National races. The racing took place on Sunday on the Oulton Park Circuit, a track often used for car racing. The fast circuit led to a lot of bunch racing with many of the races finishing in bunch sprints.

Elsewhere DTCC juniors Evie White and James Liversidge took part in the Braes Grand Prix races near Callander. The women's race was the first round of the Scottish National Scotia Women's Series and strong riding from Evie saw her secure 8th place.

Lyndsay Aitken

Colin Wallace

Colin Wallace raced at the first round of the British National Para Cycling series in Nottingham. On the crit race on Sunday, he placed 5th but then the TT on Easter Monday he won. After these results he leads the C3 standings. Round 2 is in Norfolk on the first weekend of June

Evening League 2022

The league calendar may be accessed on our [website](#). The site is also open for Registration so follow the [links](#) and get your name down. During registration you'll find pages which tell what to do and what not to do – League Rules! Courses are listed. Changes for this year include, importantly, a mandatory, front white light.

It is also a requirement if you take part in the series that you commit to assisting at one event or more. You can add your name to specific events on the website.

Scottish Cycling has announced that members who list Deeside Thistle as their Second Claim Club may take part in Club Confined Events. This is a change from last year when all riders had to be First Claim Members.

Steve Walton

Timekeeping

I was first introduced to Timekeeping about ten years ago. I enjoyed it from the start.

In 2014 I was a member of the Commonwealth Games timing team. We were assisting the professionals from Longines. We were fitting timing chips to bikes and retrieving them after the events. TTs, Road Races, MTB races. We also helped with backup splits from our timing lines around the various courses. Many happy memories.

I was there one rainy day at the finish line to claim the chip from a young Welsh lad who had won the road race by a good margin. We were all wet through and this Geraint guy (really nice lad) was covered from head to foot in mud, but really happy! I didn't envisage him in a yellow jersey at the time!!



I have been Timekeeper for many club and Open events since. When it comes to Time Trials like the Evening League, it is not about timing chips, but about "Splits".

We know exactly when everyone sets off and we record splits as they cross the finish line. Shouting out and



recording their numbers and times. The difference is their race time. Fortunately, we have a spreadsheet which works this out for us and a nice man in the background who works out the handicaps etc.

It is great fun to see how well all the riders are doing. We have some junior riders now who may end up at the Commonwealth Games themselves one day.

Problem is, there aren't many of us officials left. If you fancy having a go, we can get you to sit alongside at an event and learn the ropes, (not rocket science btw.). We are also planning to run Timekeeping courses.

Please email enterel@deeside.org and express an interest.

David Walton

Youth & Junior Vacancies

DTCC Youth and Junior offers Coaching sessions for riders aged 6-18 years, covering road and off-road disciplines. Following COVID19 we have a number of spaces in our groups and are looking for new riders. If interested please contact youth@deeside.org to register your rider, advising date of birth and current riding capability

Total Endurance

Demo Day

28th Of May

We are excited to let you know we will be running a demo day on

Saturday the 28th of May

There will be an opportunity to test ride some BMC road bikes and Zone 3 wetsuits in our endless pool

We hope to see as many of you as possible so please save the date

Go [here](#) for more information

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>

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.

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
02 Oct	Ladies RR	AWCC

PlanetX Time Trial bike Exocet model - size large - Stolen

A pale blue and white carbon fibre TT bike with Ultegra gears and chainset was stolen from a member's garage last week

It's about 10 years old and quite distinctive

If you hear of this machine-which was stolen without wheels please contact info@deeside.org

It belongs to one of our veterans who has probably ridden the second highest number of time trials in the club.



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*

Sunday Banchory Rides

The rides will start 10:00 am (sharp) from Banchory Townhall (carpark opposite town hall). The rides will be published on SPOND, and we would ask you to sign up for the ride via SPOND, so we know who is riding and we have your emergency contact details.

You can download SPOND on your smart phone or access any computer or tablet via: <https://spond.com/welcome>.

To join the Banchory Rides group please sign up via: <https://group.spond.com/TTADU>.

There are other rides through the week and sometimes adhoc meetup, so it is worth joining.

- (1) The route will be published on SPOND and will always include a coffee stop
- (2) Route will be around 50 miles
- (3) We will try and run two groups. Espresso and Latte. Espresso will be a ride aiming for 18 to 20 mph average. Latte will be no drop ride riding at the pace of the slowest rider, but hopefully around 16 mph, or slower if needed.
- (4) Espresso will set off first, anyone dropped from Espresso can drop back to Latte
- (5) If we do not have enough for two groups it will be a no drop ride
- (6) All levels of rider welcome

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 re-start.

Link to [SPOND Guide](#)

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*

NESS Sensational Sensory Ball

I'm reaching out to some cycling contacts and cycling clubs to let them know that the Star Guests at the NESS Sensational Sensory Ball at the Marcliffe Hotel on Saturday 28th May will be Paralympians Neil & Lora Fachie. On the night they will take part in a Q&A session with our MC, Ian Thain, where you will hear their stories about how they've overcome the challenges they have with their sight impairments and gone on to achieve success.

I would really appreciate if this could be circulated within Deeside Cycling Club to see if any of your members would be interested in coming along to support a great local charity and hear Neil & Lora's fantastic stories. Tables of 10 are £1,000 or individual tickets can be purchased for £100/person. This includes a welcome drink, 4 course meal and an evening of great entertainment and fundraising.

Just as some background info. on NESS. We are the second oldest charity in Aberdeen, a lot of people will remember us as Grampian Society for the Blind, becoming North East Sensory Services (NESS) in 2010 when we started to support people who are blind and/or deaf, or have severe sensory impairment in some way. We support approx. 6,500 people of all ages, including families with babies and young children, across the northeast of Scotland from our head Resource Centre here in Aberdeen and our centres in Elgin and Dundee.

<https://www.nesensoryservices.org/events/sensational-sensory-ball/> .

Lynn Batham

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.



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 at Cairnwell, the first ever mountain top finish on the first stage of a major stage race,

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*

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

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

1521	Mike Spalding	Aberdeen	57
3052	Tarry Waterson	Aberdeen	57
3053	Jay Gabbot	Banchory	11
3054	Kim Thomas	Aberdeen	54
3055	Kyle Mowbray	Fintray	49
3056	Sam Carrotte	Dundee	18
3057	Lucy Ritchie	Fintray	47
3058	Ian Wetherill	Banchory	50
3059	Stephen Gaunt	Banchory	32
3060	Harry Gauthier	Banchory	12

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.

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.

Synopsis of Meeting

A Finance and Management Committee meeting took place on-line, on Monday 09 May 2022. In attendance were Andrew Harrington, Sandy Lindsay, Gavin Baxter, John Sands, Peter Smart, Neil Stables, Mark Walker, David Walton and Steve Walton.

Agenda

- 1 Apologies – Colin Esslemont, Sam Long, Laura Sarkis and Jon Strachan
- 2 Minutes of Previous Meeting – Accepted as correct record
- 3 Business Arising from Minute
 - i) Fundraising and CASC – In order to comply with CASC regulations minor modifications to the club's constitution were detailed. This will be prepared and submitted to the 2022 AGM. Possible supporters to help fund projects are being investigated
 - ii) Evening League – The 2022 league is under way with Event 3 due on 10 May. Key positions being covered by only a few people, in particular timekeeping. Three members have come forward to offer support and they will be given training. 74 members have registered
 - iii) Wheel Park Ellon - It was agreed to make a donation of £500 to this worthwhile project
 - iv) Aberdeenshire Trail Association - Details were given highlighting the ongoing needs to re-develop trails damaged by winter storms. A proposal that £5 per MTB rider/per month with an equal sum met by the wider club be paid to the ATA met with approval. It was agreed to pay a lump sum of £1500 from the wider club which approximately equals the proposal
- 4 New Business
 - i) Youth & Junior Update –
 - a) New riders: Community engagement work continues with sessions in Banchory and in Alford, with over 30 school aged riders receiving Coaching. A number of these are now in the process of joining the Club. A grant application for further sessions in Deeside and Donside is being prepared for the summer holidays
 - b) Racing and EL. Road and off-road racing has resumed for the summer in all age groups, at British and Scottish level. Significant group of riders travelled to Isle of Man
 - c) Social. As discussed previously we think it would be beneficial to organise a Club social event, at Knockburn. Sunday 26th June is the suggested date, based on current race plans
 - d) Funding. An application has been made to the Aldi sports fund. A partial award was also made by BC following a competition effort. Our focus remains on



investing these funds into equipment for Coaching and paying the training fees of our Junior Coaches

e) Finance. Y&J are still working on budget plans for 2022 and will advise once completed

It was pointed out that 26 June clashes with other events. An alternative date for the social gathering is to be confirmed

ii) A letter asking the club to facilitate the needs of a Ukrainian cyclist who is to arrive soon in Aberdeenshire was read out. It was agreed to do whatever possible to assist. Contact is to be made and a meeting arranged

5 Next Meeting – Monday 11 July 2022 at 7.00pm

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>

Please assist at
events when
asked



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

May

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 Broadstraik 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

CAR CLINIC

Email: greatservice@car-clinic.com

Web: <http://www.car-clinic.co.uk/>

Car Clinic, Unit 2, Hillview
Road, East Tullos, Aberdeen,
AB12 3HB

Phone: 01224 891414

Car Clinic, Broadfold Road,
Bridge of Don, Aberdeen,
AB23 8EE

Phone: 01224 821010



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

25 Years Ago

NEW HANDBOOK

Soon a new Club Handbook is to be published. This will be issued to all members in due course. During its compilation interesting records began to appear. A late-comer to the world of cycle sport, Ian Curphey, has been producing sparkling performances. Though his scratch times cannot bear comparison with John O'Donovan you should see his age-related performances:

10mils	1990	J O'Donovan	(40)	(21.16)	+4.14
25mils	1995	J O'Donovan	(45)	(57.04)	+11.27
	1995	I Curphey	(53)	(1.00.58)	+11.45
	1996	I Curphey	(54)	(59.00)	+14.16
30mils	1988	A Elkington	(47)	(1.10.37)	+12.50
50mils	1996	I Curphey	(54)	(2.04.15)	+27.51
100mils	1991	J O'Donovan	(41)	(3.57.55)	+58.19
12hrs	1990	J O'Donovan	(40)	(273.161)	+48.161

Ian claims he doesn't have the same motivation this year. However, seeing in print what he is capable of will maybe give him the enthusiasm to attempt an update of John's 10, 100 and 12 hr.

Registered for the
Evening League?

Go [here](#)

Club Kit Arrival

Pactimo kit order is now available to collect from Tierney Strachan, 12 Greenbank Place, East Tullos, AB12 3BT.

Please observe social distancing and wear a mask.

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 ring the office number 01224 295000. If the main gates are closed, we are closed, simples.

Visitors 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 need to give you weights and dimensions if you want to do this.

Best Regards/Vennlig hilsen/ Atenciosamente

Jon Strachan

jas@tierney-strachan.co.uk

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

Historical Reminiscences

(Part 44)

It's a phrase often used but often misunderstood, "*Ne'er cast a cloot 'til May is oot.*" It sounds simple. Don't divest yourself of those winter garments until the month of May is past. Not so.

It's not the month of May and it's not any specific date. The weather will play a part for a mild spring will bring the date forward and a harsh one will delay the blossoming.

The Common Hawthorn is that prickly plant which often hedges our road-sides. It is also known as the May Bush.

In days of yore, before our Gregorian Calendar was regulated in 1752, the first blossoms to appear on the May Bush marked the turn of the seasons when warmer weather could be expected.

Clatt may be the sleepy wee hamlet on the Gadie Burn famous for its humorous inclusion as Auchterturra in many of the tales from [Scotland the What](#). It is brooded over by the heather clad slopes of the Correen Hills, casting a shadow on a tragic period of history in the north-east.

We'd explored the Correen Hills on many an occasion. Little did we know that the first visit 20 years ago was across the Old Mar Road and site of a battle.

The club's Reliability Trial in April sowed a seed of inspiration when we'd climbed the Suie and looked north-west towards Clatt and beyond to see, at the limit of visibility, Drumminor Castle built above Bogie Water and close by Rhynie.

At Tullynessle Church on the Suie road from Bridge of Alford there's an unclassified road heading west for a couple of kilometres to Terpersie Castle. Just before the castle a track turns left through Dubston farm.

Fouchie Shank climbs from Terpersie burn up the side of Lord Arthur's Hill. It's a long drag, some three kilometres, but nearly all cycleable, depending on fitness and keeping control. On the top of the hill is a well-built cairn forming a shelter against bleak north winds. Alastair and I had often been there and knew that the cairn had been built to celebrate the life of one Arthur Forbes, also known as Black Arthur.

The Forbes family predominated in the area we now know as Howe of Alford. Indeed, their estates stretched further north, over the Suie and even as far north as Drumminor Castle in the Vale of Bogie, east of Rhynie. Though many folk will connect the Forbes family with Forbes Castle at Keig, in the 16th Century Drumminor was the main garrison. Without going into too much in the way of semantics the word garrison has been used proactively. The Forbeses were a warlike crowd.

It was the time of the reformation and the Forbeses supported the Protestant Government while their sworn enemies, the Gordons, were very much Catholic. The Gordons were championed by the Earls of Huntly and what

might have been seen as a conciliatory arrangement, instead, led to a murderous conflict on the northern slopes of the Correen Hills.

The 8th Lord Forbes married Lady Margaret Gordon, eldest daughter of the 4th Earl of Huntly. All things being equal this might have led to more harmonious comings and goings between the two families, but a son born of these two was ordained in the Catholic faith. Not good, for it meant that Black Arthur, whose blood thickened at the thought of his family, insisted that Lady Gordon should be disowned. That the Gordons and Forbeses had estates bordering each other could not have helped. The estates of Knockepoch and Terpersie are at opposite ends of the Suie and butted hard against lands owned by Forbes.

A modern hill path, created by Grampian Region's Gordon District, is called the Gordon Way. It could be about 20 kilometres long beginning on the east of Bennachie and finishing on the top of Suie. The week after the Reliability Trial we joined the path where it crosses the Brindy and climbed westwards on Satter Hill. Here the tracks are obviously old, little used and in poor repair. Higher still, onto Knock Saul, and into heather, the track became firebreaks through trees and followed fences until it reached the Suie road.

While munching on our jammie pieces, Alastair produced a book, [Grampian Battlefields](#) by Peter Marren. This book chronicles nearly a millennium in the north-east of Scotland. It lists battles from Mons Graupius in AD84 to a much more recent skirmish on the ground now used as a sewerage works at Inverurie.

Below us lay Knockepoch, a Gordon mansion of the time, and in line just over two kilometres distance is Mains of Tillyangus. From Knockepoch, due west, an ancient road runs to Auchendoir and the Cabrach. This is the Old Mar Road. Much of it is through modern forest and maintained by Forestry Commission. There is little doubt that things have changed here. As the commercial forest has grown on the northern slopes of Correen Hill it is unlikely that the ancient way has remained constant. But from Mar Lodge, even if less distinct, the route is, as was, 500 years ago. Impassable in places because of the incursion of gorse and whin, the lack of drainage and imposition of rusty palings, it follows strictly the interface of forest and agricultural land. Suddenly a gate is met and running almost straight, earthworks mark the line of the road as it rises gently on "Tillyangus' bloody brae" before descending to derelict Smallburn farm and farm tracks, which replace the made road that history has all but forgotten.

After Black Arthur had ordered the dissolution of the relationship between his nephew and Lady Margaret he expected retaliation. Calling together all, with the clan name Forbes, they assembled at Drumminor Castle.

Festering in the minds of the Gordon's was the defeat at Corriche a few years earlier. Legend also says that 15 Gordons had been slain at a banquet in 1571 in the Great Hall of the Castle. Be that as it may, it is suggested that word reached the Gordon's of the gathering and records show that the Gordon's were marching southwards on or



about the 10 October 1571. Their route included the Old Mar Road and in massed ranks, heavily armoured and armed they approached White Hill at Tillyangus.

Meantime the Forbeses had entrenched themselves on the western slope of White Hill.

On White Hill is a prehistoric stone enclosure about 30 metres in diameter. We took our bikes to this and stood looking down the bank and over a field to Smallburn. It was here, all those years ago, that Black Arthur and his 500 or more kinsmen lay and waited for the Gordon's to arrive. In this heavily fortified position, the Forbeses may have appeared the superior force but with at least equal numbers and a strategic dividing of his army, Sir Adam Gordon won the day. The Forbeses were routed and retreated to their castle. During the retreat Black Arthur fought at the rear but was overpowered by William Gordon from Terspersie Castle who stabbed him to death.

Escaping men took the body of Black Arthur over the Correen Hills to be buried in Donside at Forbes Kirkyard. Drumminor was laid siege to and a week later stormed and ransacked.

It is said that Jock's Cairn, close by the battlefield, marks the burial site of those slain in the conflict. Human remains have been found in the locality.

Clatt may be a sleepy wee hamlet on the Gadie Burn. Passing through you blink once and miss it. Next time keep your eyes open and look south, beyond Mains of Tillyangus and before the forests on Correen, towards a site of a battle in the bloody civil war, which tore the country apart in the latter half of the 16th century.

Beside Tighnabraich Youth Hostel is a field with odds and sods of rusting abandoned agricultural machinery. I'd arrived there with a small party of schoolboys on a West Highland Tour.

Bruce Petrie's bike experienced problems: the headset kept loosening and we didn't have a spanner to fit.

Two substantial bits of cast iron on a derelict piece of ploughing equipment were spaced just the right distance apart and with careful manipulation the desired repair was effected.

In Kingussie we limped to the Youth Hostel. One of our party had a pedal minus the ball bearings. These had disappeared into the heather through Glenfeshie.

The warden saw our plight and swiftly offered his skateboard. The trucks were dismantled, and enough balls transferred to ensure the pedal performed efficiently.

After the tour, a neat package of replacement bearings was despatched by Royal Mail.

I've got this old map. It was the first map I ever bought, a Bartholomew's 1/2 inch of Deeside. It covers from south of Montrose to north of Belhelvie and eastwards to Ben Macdhuì. Though now tattered and missing its covers it still is a precious thing for it contains so much.

You know, a map is like an autobiography. It contains your life story. The only thing is, an autobiography is a book full of short stories which anyone can read, whereas a map is a secret diary full of your own history which only you can unlock. I pore over mine at every opportunity. Camped here, drummed up there, crashed here and here and here, know every bump on that road and off road, raced this course and that, big club run here, first rough-stuff there.

What's also special about this map is that it is nearly unreadable. For all of my cycling life I've carefully drawn on it any cycling route that I've followed. Aberdeenshire has 1000s of miles of A and B roads. There are equally as many miles of minor roads and countless others on tracks and paths. These paths and tracks have been the lifeblood of the country, and though they may now sometimes appear to go nowhere it's special to know that the annotation on my map proves to me that I've been there, done that. And there are only a few more scattered pieces to collect.

I used to live at Butler's Avenue (as a wee child). That's on the North Deeside about a mile towards Banchory from Crathes. The bridge at Crathes was always known to me then as Crathes Bridge. Some years later, as an older child (late primary, early secondary) I lived at Wainsgate which is near Kirkton of Durris about a couple of miles towards Aberdeen from that bridge on the South Deeside. I continued to call it Crathes Bridge but began to sense that some others were referring to it as Durris Bridge. Maybe both names apply - maybe depends on which side of the river you belong!

Check these notes which I've found:

*"Travel to Crathes on North Deeside Road, turn left over **Crathes Bridge** onto Slug Road (Signposted Stonehaven A957)"*

*"Note: the road north of **Durris Bridge**, to which this minute refers, is technically not part of the Slug Road"*

*"**Crathes (Durris) bridge** was formerly used by canoeists for access and egress with their boats"*

Interestingly, the old bridge, which I'd climbed all over as a kid (my parents wouldn't have been happy had they spotted me on the outside of the parapet inching from side to side over the River Dee along the metal ledge) was iron and though latterly, tarmacked, was earlier a wooden carriageway. It was demolished in 1977 when the current bridge was opened to the public. On this new bridge is a plaque: **Durris Bridge** opened by A J Rennie Esq JP, Chairman of Transport and Roads Grampian Regional Council. The piles for the old bridge are still visible in the river just east of the new bridge. **Roughstuffer**

The Deeside Thistle Cycling Club publishes this magazine. The Editor is Sandy Lindsay MBE, Rowan Cottage, Inveramsay, Inverurie, AB51 5DQ. Tel: 01467 681330 / 07867 857221 – Email: knockies@aol.com

