

Cycle Forth

Newsletter of the CTC Lothians DA

Number 7, Jan 2000

Jack Murdoch

Jack Murdoch, immediate Past President of the Lothians DA died while riding his bike in early December 1999 aged nearly 82. Even at the age of 80 he was still leading the "Sunday Easy Runs". He was first elected to the Lothians DA committee in 1938 and was an active DA official up to the AGM in November 1999. He has had only two breaks, the first for war service and the second whilst residing in Northumberland from 1961 to 1973.



In the early years Jack regularly led runs, both Sundays and mid-week. He organised events and encouraged participation. Since returning from Northumberland he has constantly encouraged young cyclists on his easy and standard rides, gaining many new members for the club. In more recent years Jack has helped and encouraged many people to take up cycling again, and introduced them to the Albert Watson Memorial Hut at Polmood.

With the help of the DA committee Jack was instrumental in reviving the Edinburgh Road Club which became the competitive offshoot of the DA. He organised time-trials, audax events, circuit training, hill-climbs and freewheeling competitions. Furthermore, as an RRA and RRAS official he organised many successful RRA record attempts, often in collaboration with the late Dave Harris.

Jack served on the general, social and runs committees in many capacities. He has been a treasurer, auditor and for two long periods he was secretary, (1973-1983 and 1987-1993). He was club president from 1993-1999. He has also represented the DA on the Edinburgh Accident Prevention Council, the East of Scotland Cycling Association (ESCA), the Scottish YHA and the Scottish Sports Council.

His long service was recognised by the DA this year awarding him the "Zoller Trophy" which was presented to him only a few weeks before his death.

Although he led a frugal lifestyle rare in this age of rampant consumerism - his inner tubes were often more patches than rubber - he was a very generous person who went out of his way to make others feel welcome and 'included'. He still cycled every day right to the end - despite failing eyesight (his alarmed companions often had to nudge him gently from the middle of the road towards the edge), and his last ambition was to reach a tally of 500,000 miles, which he'd hoped to achieve in a couple of years.

Thus ends a life devoted to cycling and cyclists. With his infectious laugh and ready sense of humour, Jack will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Sciennes Safe Routes to School (SRS)

The Sciennes Primary SRS Group would like to say a big THANK YOU to all those who have either helped with training or donated bikes.

The cycle training on Grange Loan has been a big success and the Group are grateful to all the cyclists who have helped. Quite a few children do not have a bike, so spare bikes to loan have been most useful, especially as this is the only opportunity children currently have for training in safety.

The School Cycle Club continues to be popular with older pupils. They have had rides out to Spylaw Park, Portobello and Musselburgh as well as a 20-mile ride to the Pentlands. The last was organised by Edinburgh Road Club, who were impressed with the children's fitness. The school has also had two Walk to School Weeks, which have been widely supported by politicians of all parties. And they continue to promote the 'walking buses' to escort younger children safely to school.

As a result more children are walking and cycling to school, and the Group has won a National Cycling Award in the 'Best Complementary /Promotional Activity' category. The judges were "highly impressed with the enthusiasm and energy invested in developing a valuable package of activities to encourage sustainable and healthy travel to school".

The Group are still looking for volunteers to help with cycle training, and for bikes, parts, lights, tools or child seats. They particularly need bikes for 8 - 12 year olds, but also adult bikes to lend to parents and teachers. Volunteers should be : a) cyclists b) over 18 c) confident speaking with children, and d) available during school hours for at least one day in the week. Next session is March/ April 2000.

Please contact Cathy Scott 0131 667 6740 or cathy.scott@btinternet.com if you can help.



The big event of this year will be the opening on June 21st of the National Cycle Network. A lot of activity is going on to complete sections of routes. Signage is now beginning to appear. Do you know where the nearest bit of the NCN to your house is?

Here's this month's quiz question: which of the DA's regular meeting places is on BOTH Route 75 and on Route 1?

The aim is to have every mile (of the total of about 9000 miles) being ridden on Wednesday June 21st, as far as possible by groups of riders. We would like to see all of the 670 households in the DA joining in this. If you're not at work - be there. If you can take a day off work, so much the better.

The next Cycle Forth should be out at the end of May and will give details of what we are planning in conjunction with Sustrans & Spokes

NEW READERS START HERE -

If you have picked this up in a bike shop or library and are not a member, please phone the Secretary (0131 554 7773) to get a leaflet describing more of the activities and facilities of the Club than we have room to print here. If you have access to the internet, you can find it all at the Lothians DA website -

www.scotssport.co.uk/ctc/



working for cycling

Newhailes

The Newhailes estate on the western outskirts of Musselburgh has been taken over by National Trust for Scotland, and the mansion is being restored. Access to the grounds from the north side has been possible informally for years, via a gap in the wall from the path beside the Brunstane Burn. Recently this access has been fenced off but a new one provided a little further east, opposite the old bridge over the Burn. But a notice on the gate says this access "may be closed shortly", and a phone number is given. When the Editor/ Rights Officer followed this up he was told of the problems with vandals, and of plans to rebuild the old stone wall which may or may not have an access entrance.

We are asking members to write to NTS to support continued access to the grounds from the north. Not only are these pleasant for walking and cycling, but it is an opportunity to visit the House, when restored, by sustainable transport (i.e. walking /cycling), since the Brunstane Burn path links to the Innocent Route and provides an off-road link right into Edinburgh. NTS want to restore the house "as authentically as possible" - but what could be less authentic than a huge car park ?

In our view, replacing the wall without providing access through it would be an invitation to vandals to knock a hole in it, especially as NTS propose using a traditional lime mortar. A proper access would encourage well-intentioned visitors, which in itself deters vandalism, and the north side is now more in the public eye than formerly because of the new houses next to the Burn, which should also deter vandals.

Please write, especially if you are a member of NTS, to : Charles Strang, Director, Newhailes Project, NTS, 23 Charlotte Sq Edinburgh EH2.



Bridge Re-opens

The 'main drag' - the cycle path from Roseburn to Leith - has been disrupted for months while a new bridge was built over Ferry Road, near Crewe Toll. City of Edinburgh Council is to be congratulated on the new bridge with its elegant and striking design and colour. Because of road widening, the bridge is much longer than its predecessor. The new road, which runs from Crewe Toll to West Granton Road and replaces the Pilton Path, will have a cycle path alongside it, which will eventually continue north beyond W Granton to curve round and emerge at Granton Square. We were sorry to lose the Pilton Path, which some of us had campaigned for and indeed worked on as volunteers, but it was very vandal-prone, whereas the new path will be bolstered by the road.



We have to thank a campaign by Spokes and the CTC for the new bridge. It's unthinkable that such a main cycle route could have been permanently cut, but that was in the original proposals. It just shows that although the Council are pro-cycling at the top level, there are still some officials prepared to compromise our needs.

New faces on committee

The AGM of the DA was held on 17 Nov. in the Clubroom. President Jack Murdoch resigned "from old age" and was warmly thanked for his contribution to DA life over many years, and congratulated on his award of the Zoller Trophy. The new DA President is Evelyn Law.

Secretary Peter Osborne resigned because of work and personal commitments, and was thanked for the work he had done over the past year. The new Secretary is Mike Harrison. Three new members of the Committee were elected, Sonya Watt, Peter Martin and Dorothy Jack, the latter taking over as Social Secretary.

Ingliston 'Bike Blast'

The Ingliston circuit resounded to the shouts of children and teenagers enjoying bike races and other challenges on six Thursday evenings in spring and early summer last year, when the Cycle Development Project arranged to hire the circuit for this purpose. The event was hugely successful and attracted greater numbers than had been expected, despite the rather patchy publicity.

The 'Bike Blast' will be repeated again this year and the dates are []. All members with youngsters in the family are invited to take part and this is an excellent way to stimulate an interest in cycling, competitive or otherwise.

Ceilidh

The DA's annual ceilidh was held at the German-speaking Church Hall on 20 Nov. Numbers were down a little on last year, perhaps because the date had to be changed, but as usual there was plenty of dancing, and lots to eat Don't miss it next year

George Pennel

Many of you will know that George Pennel finally retired and closed his Peebles bike shop after 44 years in the business. The shop was a 'Mecca' which attracted many even from Edinburgh. George was always open on Sunday, and his kettle never went cold. The building, in The Vennel, has been refurbished but the good news is that a new bike shop has opened in part of it. The DA marked George's retirement by inviting him to the Christmas Lunch, but he was unfortunately not able to take this up. We all wish him a long and happy retirement - and thanks, George, for keeping us on the road.

The picture shows some Lothian members enjoying George's hospitality last June.



Christmas Lunch

This year's Lunch was held on 22 Dec. in the Function Suite of the Barnton Hotel and 40 members, including some visitors from Fife, took part. Quite a few turned up on bikes after the 'Wednesday ride', despite a fierce wind. There was a choice of menu, and many took the opportunity to give turkey a rest, especially with Christmas Day close at hand.



cut out and keep this half-page!

Runs List Jan-May 2000

Date	Meet Time	Destination
(* indicates a cafe-stop)		
Jan		
01 Sat CP	10:00	
02 Sun RP	10:00	
05 Wed FH	10:00	* Haddington
05 Wed SA	20:00	No Clubnight
08 Sat CP	10:00	
09 Sun GX	10:00	
12 Wed F	10:00	* West Linton
12 Wed SA	20:00	Robert Melrose: USA National Parks
15 Sat CP	10:00	Dunfermline (Fife Lunch)
16 Sun FH	10:00	
19 Wed P	10:00	* S. Queensferry
19 Wed SA	20:00	Clubnight
22 Sat CP	10:00	
23 Sun GX	10:00	
26 Wed KX	10:00	* Eddleston
26 Wed SA	20:00	Burns Supper
29 Sat CP	10:00	
30 Sun FH	10:00	
Feb		
02 Wed FH	10:00	Oxenfoord
02 Wed SA	20:00	Clubnight
05 Sat CP	10:00	
06 Sun FH	10:00	
09 Wed RP	10:00	* Linlithgow
09 Wed SA	20:00	Mike Harrison: Have you seen this?
12 Sat CP	10:00	
13 Sun GX	10:00	
16 Wed F	10:00	* Midcalder
16 Wed SA	20:00	Clubnight

Feb		
19 Sat CP	10:00	East Fortune
20 Sun RP	10:00	
23 Wed KX	10:00	* Peebles
23 Wed SA	20:00	Brian Curtis: South African Tour 1999
26 Sat CP	10:00	
Mar		
01 Wed NX	10:00	* Gullane
01 Wed SA	20:00	Clubnight
04 Sat CP	10:00	
05 Sun		Dave Harris Memorial Randonnee 200k
05 Sun GX	10:00	
08 Wed RP	10:00	* S. Queensferry
08 Wed SA	20:00	Photo Competition
11 Sat CP	10:00	
12 Sun FH	10:00	
15 Wed P	10:00	* Rouken Glen GC
15 Wed SA	20:00	Clubnight
18 Sat CP	10:00	West Linton
19 Sun RP	10:00	
22 Wed KX	10:00	Eddleston
22 Wed SA	20:00	Quiz
25 Sat CP	10:00	
26 Sun FH	10:00	
29 Wed RP	10:00	* Culross
29 Wed SA	20:00	Clubnight
Apr		
01 Sat CP	10:00	
02 Sun RP	09:30	
05 Wed FH	10:00	* North Berwick
05 Wed SA	20:00	George Russell

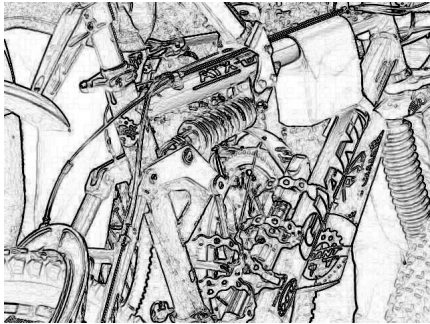
Apr		
08 Sat CP	10:00	
09 Sun FH	09:30	
12 Wed F	10:00	* West Linton
12 Wed SA	20:00	Clubnight
15 Sat CP	10:00	
16 Sun GX	09:30	
19 Wed KX	10:00	* Eddleston
19 Wed SA	20:00	Eric Robertson: East Coast of America
22 Sat CP	10:00	
23 Sun FH	09:30	
26 Wed P	10:00	* Linlithgow
29 Sat CP	10:00	
30 Sun FH	09:30	
May		
02 Tue CP	19:00	(first of the year)
03 Wed FH	10:00	Yellow Craig
06 Sat CP	10:00	
07 Sun GX	09:30	
09 Tue CP	19:00	
10 Wed RP	10:00	Rumbling Bridge
13 Sat CP	10:00	
14 Sun FH	09:30	
16 Tue CP	19:00	
17 Wed KX	10:00	Gladhouse
20 Sat CP	10:00	
21 Sun GX	09:30	
23 Tue CP	19:00	
24 Wed P	10:00	Beebraigs
26 Fri		KM Rally, Drumlanrig, to 29th
27 Sat CP	10:00	
28 Sun FH	09:30	
30 Tue CP	19:00	
31 Wed FH	10:00	Tynninghame

Water of Leith Path

The cycle path beside the Water of Leith from Slateford to Balerno is to be re-surfaced as part of the Millennium Project. Work will be in progress until about May, which could mean some disruption and muddy surfaces. Colinton Tunnel will be closed for about six weeks, with a diversion signed. Efforts will be made to keep the route open as far as possible. It is at least twenty years since the path was last refurbished, and the deterioration, from multiple use by walkers, joggers, cyclists and horses, has been marked. The Council wanted a tarmac surface for easier maintenance, but local opposition has forced acceptance of a whindust surface as at present.

Telfer Subway

Thanks to pressure from the CTC and Spokes, the subway under the West Approach Road, from Orwell Terrace to Dundee St., has been re-opened and the former steps have been replaced with a ramp, making it possible to cycle all the way along - albeit you'll need low gear for the last part. This is a useful link in the route from the Roseburn Path to the south side of the city.



Social Programme – to Easter 2000

The social meets all take place in the Clubroom, Saughtonhall Avenue at 20:00. Bikes may be parked INSIDE, cars must be left outside.

On Wednesdays when there is no guest speaker, the room is still open. Come along either to hear a speaker, or to chat to friends. If you don't have any friends, come along, and you soon will have some.

January

12 Robert Melrose: USA National Parks

19 Clubnight

26 Burns Supper

Feb

02 Clubnight

09 Mike Harrison: Have you seen this?

16 Clubnight

23 Brian Curtis: South African Tour 1999

Mar

01 Clubnight

08 Photo Competition

15 Clubnight

22 Quiz

29 Clubnight

Apr

05 George Russell

12 Clubnight

19 Eric Robertson: East Coast of America

Runs Leaders

Evelyn Law (444 2240) is coordinating the runs.

Sunday: Jimmy Noon (665 0841) is organising until the end of May.

Saturday: Finlay Cairns (661 6073).

Wednesday: Peter Martin (229 8615).

Audax & Family Runs: Sonya Watt (339 3709).

Tuesday evenings: (no leader appointed yet).



GRID REF.	DESCRIPTION
NT267725	Commonwealth Pool, on paved area near Holyrood Park Rd
NT699225	Firrhill. (Colinton Rd / Colinton Mains Drive)
NT335730	Fisherrow Harbour car park
NT283685	Gilmerton Cross Roads (Gilmerton Road / Newtoft Street)
NT280700	KX Kingston Crossroads, on A7. (Gilmerton Rd / Mount Vernon Rd)
NT305717	NXX Niddrie Crossroads. (Duddingston Park South / Newcraig Rd)
NT211729	P Pinkhill, 200 yds east of Zoo. (Glasgow Rd / Traquair Park East)
NT232733	RP Roseburn Path (on bridge) at Wester Coates Terrace
NT222728	SA Clubroom, Saughtonhall Avenue

Runs – general hints

Daytime runs tend to be shortish in the darker colder days and stretch to 60-70 miles in mid-summer. Very often a group will split and some will take an easier or shorter route. Unless a cafe is marked, carry food and drink. Lights are a good idea too. Where a destination is listed, often people will make their own way there.

Family Runs

These are for parents with children - on child-seats, tandems, buggies, own bikes. They are usually provisionally arranged on a Thursday for the following Sunday. Phone Sonya Watt (339 3709) or Mike Hamilton (661 2516) to get details. They are heavily customised to the clientele, and the weather!



17-25 June

DA Office-Bearers

office	name	phone
President/Runs Coordinator	Evelyn Law	0131 444 2240
Chairman	Jimmy Noon	0131 665 0841
Secretary/Publicity Sec.	Mike Harrison	0131 554 7773
	LothiansDA@scotssport.co.uk	
Treasurer/Rights	Peter Hawkins	0131 453 3366
Social Secretary	Dorothy Jack	0131 667 5379
Hut Secretary	Jimmy Murray	0131 448 2421
Audax	Sonya Watt	0131 339 3709
Committee	Jimmy Kerray	0131 444 0160
Committee	Peter Martin	0131 229 8615
Committee	Richard Russell	0131 661 8614
Committee	Peter Valente	0131 334 4390
	pv917740@cimage.co.uk	

CTC Scotland Reps. are Mike Harrison, Peter Hawkins & Peter Martin

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CLUBROOM PROGRAMME 2000

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