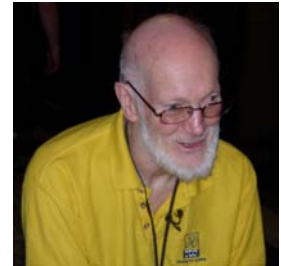


## Spring 2007

Those who attended the benefit ceilidh for Mike in the City Chambers on Saturday 3 March will agree that it was the most wonderfully enjoyable evening. The venue, band, raffle and catering were all voted a success and the evening raised over £3,000 for the Mike Harrison Support Fund, through the proceeds from the dance and raffle and some generous donations. The sub-committee who organised the event, Murray Carmichael (a friend and colleague from Mike's sailing days), Anne Carter, George Di Ponio, Hilary Maxfield and Dougie Sawers, all of whom put in a power of work, are due many congratulations.

## Mike Harrison Benefit Ceilidh



## DATC 2006

DA members will wish to congratulate the Crawford family on their outstanding success in the 2006 national District Associations' Tourist Competition., the first time the main winners of the competition have come from Scotland. Colin took the overall trophy, Sonya was first lady, and Eilidh first junior girl for the second year in succession. The competition ran throughout the year with 458 events being organised by 44 DAs and 460 riders completing 4 or more events.

## Willie Nelson 1921-2006

Older members of the DA will have learned with sadness of the death of Willie Nelson, a former stalwart of the DA and Secretary from 1950-54. He headed the Lothians DA team which organised the highly successful national Birthday Rides at Melrose in 1980. Willie's prior move to Fife had deprived Lothians DA of his considerable administrative skills but these were put to good use by the Fife DA in several positions. Many members of both DAs attended his funeral, where his sons Roy and David were presented with his CTC Certificate of Merit, which it had been planned to present to Willie at the Fife DA annual lunch.

## Bike Week 2007

The DA will again support National Bike Week, which takes place from Saturday 16 to Sunday 24 June inclusive. A new event, the 83-mile Etape Caledonia, the first closed-road mass participation event in the UK, will take place in Highland Perthshire on Sunday 24 June. The DA will mount the normal series of Tuesday evening, Wednesday and Saturday runs during the Week and, in addition, a ladies-only ride on the Thursday evening and a pot-luck supper on the Friday. We would ask DA members to encourage public participation in these events.

## Tri-Vets 2007

The 2007 triennial Veterans' run will take place on Sunday 10 June, starting from Stirling. Further details of the event can be obtained from Peter Hawkins, who will be organising the event on behalf of CTC Scotland.

## Bicycle Film Festival

Following the sell-out success of the inaugural Festival in 2006, a further Bicycle Film Festival will be held at the Filmhouse during National Bike Week and is likely to feature a film on the Scottish former 'King of the Mountains', Robert Millar. Details are available on the website [www.bicyclefilmfestival.info](http://www.bicyclefilmfestival.info).

## DA Autumn Weekend

The annual DA autumn weekend will take place from Friday 28 to Sunday 30 September. After recent visits to Pitlochry, this year's event will remain in Highland Perthshire but will move to Weem. Runs of 50 to 60 miles will be organised for the Saturday and Sunday. Further details from Mike Bonar on 0131 441 7573 or [mgbonar-at-btinternet.com](mailto:mgbonar-at-btinternet.com). As is now traditional, Mike will provide dinner (BYOB) on the Saturday and breakfast on both days.

## Albert Watson Memorial Hut

DA members will be interested to learn of developments concerning the Hut at Tweedsmuir. Following concerns over public liability and buildings insurance in this ever more litigious era, the committee took advice from CTC HQ. An inspection was carried out by a fire inspector in January, which concluded that written fire risk assessments should be maintained, with a regular inspection and maintenance schedule, fire and safety procedures displayed, the gas system checked annually by a CORGI -registered individual, smoke detectors installed throughout and the fire extinguisher replaced. H&S risk assessments would also have to be carried out. Of greatest concern, the stove and flue would appear to require replacement and asbestos has now been found in the building. The committee will cost the required work. In the light of declining use in recent years, the viability of the hut remains in doubt and DA members will no doubt wish to consider this issue at an appropriate juncture.

## DA rides

The DA organises a series of day rides throughout the year on Wednesdays and Saturdays, commencing at 10 a.m. In addition, there is a shorter and easier run of approximately 2 hours on the third Sunday of each month, again commencing at 10 a.m. All Saturday and Sunday runs start from the Commonwealth Pool. The Wednesday rides have a variety of starting points, noted below. The DA also organises Tuesday evening rides from the beginning of May through to the end of August, starting from the Commonwealth Pool at 7 p.m. Details of all of these rides can be obtained from the Runs Contacts or found on the DA website at [www.ctclothians.org.uk](http://www.ctclothians.org.uk). A number of runs are also being organised by Borders members, details of which are available from Jessie Harrington (see below) or on the website.

### Group Riding Guidelines

The DA committee has approved fresh guidelines for group riding, which all participants on club runs are asked to comply with:-

- ✓ Follow the Highway Code, showing consideration for all road users. Don't stop near junctions or block the sight-lines of other road users.
- ✓ The group normally rides two abreast, each rider keeping directly behind the rider in front (KEEP IT TIDY). Never overlap your front wheel with rear wheel of bike in front.
- ✓ When necessary, single up, e.g. on a narrow or busy road, when vehicles approach or opposite a continuous white centre line.
- ✓ Ride smoothly and try not to slow or stop suddenly. Always give a warning to those behind.
- ✓ Shout and signal warnings of danger or change, e.g. uneven or loose surfaces, vehicles approaching or left and right turns.
- ✓ If you are unable to keep up (due to mechanical or other problem) or wish to leave the group, let others know.
- ✓ Respect the leader's position and do not ride ahead, except on long uphill sections. In any case always wait for others to catch up.
- ✓ Ensure that your bike is in good order, that you are self-sufficient for spares and preferably have mudguards and an effective rear mud flap fitted.
- ✓ Pass a message forward if a gap develops behind you.
- ✓ Always check behind before starting off or changing direction.
- ✓ The group should ride at the speed of the slowest rider.
- ✓ If the group is large, consider splitting it to aid overtaking traffic.

### Wednesday Rides

Date	Meet	Destination	Date	Meet	Destination
4 Apr	SV	Blackness	4 Jul	RP	Rumbling Bridge
11 Apr	F	West Linton	11 Jul	KX	Dawyck
18 Apr	FH	Yellowcraig	18 Jul	FH	Longyester
25 Apr	RP	Culross	25 Jul	KX	Heriot Water
2 May	SV	Muiravonside	1 Aug	[CAR]	Dunblane
9 May	KX	Cademuir	8 Aug	RP	Cullaloe Hills
16 May	[CAR]	Berwick-on-Tweed	15 Aug	F	Dunsyre
23 May	FH	Seacliffe	22 Aug	SV	Cairnpapple
30 May	RP	Falkirk Wheel	29 Aug	RP	Lochore Meadows
6 Jun	KX	Innerleithen	5 Sep	KX	Manor Sware
13 Jun	FH	Tynninghame	12 Sep	FH	John Muir CP
20 Jun	City Ch	Whiteadder	19 Sep	SV	Muiravonside
27 Jun	SV	Cockleroy	26 Sep	FH	Stenton

CP Commonwealth Pool, seats in Dalkeith Rd near traffic lights	<b>Meeting Places</b>
F Firhill (Colinton Rd / Colinton Mains Drive)	
FH Fisherrow Harbour car park	
KX Kingston Crossroads (Gilmerton Rd / Mount Vernon Rd)	
RP Roseburn Path (on bridge) at Wester Coates Terrace	
SV Slateford Viaduct (where Lanark Rd crosses Water of Leith)	

### Runs Contacts

Sunday (and Social Secretary)	Anne Carter	0131 657 2189	[replace -at- with @] annecarter2004-at-yahoo.co.uk
Saturday	Neil Brearley	01968 677117	norma.brearley-at-googlemail.com
Wednesday:	Peter Martin	0131 229 8615	mr.petermartin-at-gmail.com
Tuesday evenings:	Neil Robertson	0131 664 2131	neil.robertson-at-tesco.net
Borders runs	Jessie Harrington	01896 757626	j.harrington-at-weascotland.org.uk

Other DA contacts	Name	phone	email [replace -at- with @]
Secretary	Mike Bonar	0131 441 7573	mgbonar-at-btinternet.com
Treasurer and Rights	Peter Hawkins	0131 443 6712	peterhawk-at-care4free.net
Website	<a href="http://www.ctclothians.org.uk">www.ctclothians.org.uk</a>		