

# AYR ROADS CYCLING CLUB

Harry Fairbairn BMW



Press release issued 22/06/2008

## Gary Hand wins 43rd David Bell Memorial Race.

With a superbly timed effort, Pedal Power's Gary Hand outsprinted York Cyclework's Alistair Kay to win the £500 first prize in the 43rd edition of feared David Bell Memorial Road Race. Taking in the hill roads used in the Girvan Three Day, including Nic of The Balloch and the Screws, the Davie Bell is arguably Scotland's hardest single day road race. The 43rd edition was no exception and thanks to the £500 first prize incentive offered by the promoting club's sponsor, Harry Fairbairn BMW, it was a superb field that assembled for the off.

The attacks started immediately after the neutral zone with the prospect of a cash reward for the first prime on Nic Of the Balloch. The climb stretched the bunch into a long bedraggled string, and it was Neil Cameron of Falkirk BC who the just pipped visiting Englishman Daniel Smith for the honours. With more than fifty miles remaining, noone forced the break and approaching the hotspot sprint the peloton was back together, much to the delight of the crowd gathered at Straiton. With a strong tailwind, Pedal Power's Kevin Barclay had to race at over 40mph to edge out Michael Nicholson and Phil Brown.

With the bonus prizes wrapped up the race now turned serious and it was Daniel Smith and Callum Wilkinson (Bicycleworks) who went on the offensive. Approaching the top of Blackies Brae they had built up a 1min 40 lead over their pursuers. With the worst timing Smith suffered a front wheel puncture on the descent of the Screws. Due to the dangers of the hill he was unable to receive service until Barr. Having worked with Smith until this point, Wilkinson now forged ahead alone. By the bottom of the Nic O Balloch you could have been forgiven for thinking that the nineteen year old had the race wrapped up. But it wasn't to be, some sterling work by Pedal Power bought the gap down, and by the summit the deficit was down to 30 seconds.

On the lower slopes of Tairlaw the trio of Hand, Kay and Scott MacRae reeled Wilkinson in, at which point Hand and Kay immediately attacked. From here on it was a game of team tactics as Hand left Kay to do most the work down the valley to the finish. Approaching the final sprint into Straiton, Kay led from the front, forcing Hand to dig really deep to sprint around to seal victory by less than a wheel's length.

Gary Hand was clearly delighted with his victory, praising his fellow competitors and the organisation of the hosts, Ayr Roads CC.

"I've come up through the ranks of Scottish Cycling and have ridden the event many times before, so its great to come back and actually win it. The

organisation has been superb and obviously Harry Fairbairn's sponsorship money adds to the kudos!

"I was a bit nervous about Callum [Wilkinson] but I knew he had gone too far out. I could see the other riders were struggling so my plan was to keep it together until the Nic and then just go!"

Meanwhile runner up Alastair Kay was glad he had made the journey north, despite losing out on £400:

"I know some of these roads from the Girvan and really enjoy them. Callum did a really strong ride, I could see he was going well on the first climb and doing a lot of work into the wind. When we did go after Callum it wasn't until Tairlaw when we caught him. Gary wasn't able to help as he had a team mate behind so I tried to soft pedal. As it was a tail wind it seemed best to try sprinting from the front, I even gave it a full sprinters lunge but it wasn't enough! I really enjoyed it, its a great race and deserves a really quality field"

Ayr Roads CC hope to work together with the Scottish Cyclists' Union to establish a series of Scottish Classics for 2009. Having pioneered the now familiar super6 format of hosting a supporting 3rd/4th category race last year, the club had clearly benefited from the lessons learned and the event went by without hiccup. This achievement was credited to the organiser John Mason, who commented that while the 21st June might well be the longest day, but for him it was easily the 20th.

Meanwhile the hosting club were delighted to finally be in a position to award the David Bell trophy to their rider Kenny Armstrong. The event is so savage that no local rider has succeeded in finishing for five years! Tired, aching and sore, Armstrong's reaction: "I had a ball"!

**Harry Fairbairn/ Ayr Roads CC**  
**43rd David Bell Memorial RR**  
**Straiton 21st June 2008 11.00 am**  
**Commissaire: David Miller**  
**Organiser: John Mason Catering: Beryl Lowther**

pos, name, team, cat

- 1 Gary Hand Pedalpower.org.uk/ Endura RT E
- 2 Alistair Kay York Cycleworks E
- 3 Scott Macrae Pedalpower.org.uk/ Endura RT 2
- 4 Michael Nicolson Glasgow Wheelers 3
- 5 Callum Wilkinson Bicycleworks.com 2
- 6 Gordon Murdoch Pedalpower.org.uk/ Endura RT E
- 7 Philip Brown Velo Ecosse 1
- 8 Collin Humphrey Activcycles/ corbridge 1
- 9 Paul Rennie Dooleys RT 1
- 10 Colin Ash Anderson Racing 1
- 11 Alister Watts Granite City RT V1
- 12 Daniel Smith Team Lacuna 1
- 13 David Robinson NFM RT 2
- 14 Keith Smith Glasgow Wheelers 3
- 15 Stephen Russell East Kilbride RC 3
- 16 Niall Aitken Pedalpower.org.uk/ Endura RT 3
- 17 Steven Dunn Falkirk BC V2

- 18 Alan Thomson Glasgow Courier 2
- 19 Jason Roberts Glasgow Nightingale CC 3
- 20 Euan Pope Glasgow Couriers 3
- 21 Neil Cameron Falkirk BC 2
- 22 Kevin Barclay Pedalpower.org.uk/ Endura RT 1
- 23 Ben Abraham Velo Ecosse 3
- 24 Paul McNally East Kibride RC
- 25 James McPake Falkirk BC 3
- 26 Eddie Cowle Stirling Bike Club 3
- 27 Kenny Armstrong Ayr Roads CC / Harry Fairbairn 3
- 28 Ray Turner Activcycles/ corbridge 3
- 29 John Brown Activcycles/ corbridge 3
- 30 Ian Willcox Unattached 3

***Prime***

- 1 6 Neil Cameron Falkirk BC 2
- 2 15 Daniel Smith Team Lacuna 1
- 3 29 Colin Ash Anderson Racing 1

***Sprint***

- 1 3 Kevin Barclay Pedalpower.org.uk/ Endura RT 1
- 2 27 Michael Nicolson Glasgow Wheelers 3
- 3 14 Philip Brown Velo Ecosse 1

***2nd edition of David Bell 3rd/4th category support race:(35 miles)***

1. Tim Blathwayt ERC
2. Matt Illingworth Unattached
3. Stephen Sheridan Ivy CC
4. Colin May ERC
5. Calum McLean ERC
6. Kieran McCluskey Team Icarus
7. Stephen Hoey Ivy CC.
8. Kenny Raeside Inverclyde Velo
9. Craig Gilmour Ayr Roads CC
10. Neil Pearson Dumfries CC