



AYR ROADS CYCLING CLUB

Sponsored by **Harry Fairbairn BMW**

The club's 75th annual dinner dance presentation was a great success. The North Beach hotel was full with past and present members who over indulged in food, drink and nostalgia. Many thanks to Bobby McLean and Arnie Thomson for organising the evening.

Looking ahead, the club's healthy position in the Scottish cycling scene will be strengthened in 2006 with several experienced road riders joining Ayrshire's premier road cycling club. Andy McKinley (formally Fullarton Whs), John Gemmell and Gary Miller (formally Ayrodynamic) will be in the blue and white of Ayr Roads for the coming season. Also the biggest name in world cycling, **ARMSTRONG** will be club colours, that is Kenny Armstrong, a bright hope in the senior category.

£15 Annual Subscriptions

Annual fees are due now and should be paid to our treasurer. Please send monies (£15 senior, £5 junior) to Alex along with current contact details. All monies to Alex McAllister, 7 Maberry Place Troon Tel 01292 316336

Soup and mince pies !

The New Year run to the club hut will be on Sunday 8 January. Leaving Ayr at 9:30 there will be soup and mince pies for all those who turn up by bike at our country retreat in Poundland.

Track News

At the end November a group of club riders took to the boards at the Manchester Velodrome. Experienced trackies; Vic, John M, Jocker McKie and Alex took off round the 44 degree banked track like seasoned pro's. Leaving Blair and young Jamie Wyllie to learn track techniques and etiquette in the novice group. Around 25 riders, 10 of who were from Ayrshire shared the 3 hour supervised track session. The tuition from Pete Deary the coach was excellent and within 15 minutes novice group riders were riding half way up the banking. Confidence and courage is

needed initially to climb the banking but once mastered the track is a great place to cycle on a cold wet November's day.



On the track at Manchester

2006 Races

The club's 2006 racing season kicks off at the Mecca of cycling locations, Straiton. The opening event will be a 10.4 miles hilly time trail on **4th March**. Vic has selected a route that takes in the exposed and almost certainly windy Largs climb on the Dalmellington Road.

Ian is again organising a road race to support the Girvan events at Easter. The race is on **Saturday 8th April**. Also in April will be an open 10 mile time trail organised by Arnie.

May sees road racing back at Straiton with the Vets & Woman's APR organised by Ian.

The David Bell Memorial Road Race will be in June and is again based at Straiton and organised by Vic. The continued success of club racing relies on a good organiser who is backed by an enthusiastic team of helpers. Please support the organisers

Full details of these events and confirmed dates will soon appear on www.scuonline.org/

Ayr Roads Cycling Club

Vic Possee (Chairman) tele 01655 770661

A Big Run

It was surely one of the most encouraging sights for road cyclist when on a wet Saturday at the end of October over 400 cyclists set off from Ayr for a ride around the county. It would be nice to say it was in honour of our clubs 75th year or even the 800th anniversary of the town's royal charter. In truth it was a fund raising ride for the Braveheart Fund (www.braveheartfund.com) and organised by Kilmarnock's Wallacehill CC. The big attraction was the opportunity to cycle in the company of so many great cyclists like..... Keenan, McAllister, Possee, Wilson and of course Wyllie. So much so that their presence attracted riders from all over the UK. Riders including **Chris Hoy**, **Graeme Obree** and **Sean Kelly**, 4 times winner of the green jersey in the Tour De France joined the **Ayr Roads** riders. The route left Ayr via the Loaning during which point Kelly got dropped from the front of the bunch to the back. Some say he was discreetly trying to judge the quality of the field, others knew he was already suffering. The massive field was then stopped on the Corton Road to let him regain his place in the first group.



The massive field stopped just before the Corton Road

In keeping with the Wallacehill's efficient road race procedures the field was set off in groups of around 30 in number and like all good APR's slower riders were in the first group (Hoy, Kelly & Co). The organiser's strategy of having several small groups touring around Ayrshire worked well.....until about Dalrymple. By Kirkmichael several groups joined into a 170 strong road race field. With these numbers some riders were not going to see the front of the bunch all day (no change there for the triathletes). The joking soon stopped however,

as the Largs climb out of Straiton began to string out the field. By Dalmellington Kelly was beginning to crack under intense pressure from Ayr Road riders, McAllister and, Wilson. This was a direct result of Kelly's friendly and talkative approach to his fellow cyclists. Nobody could understand his strong Irish brogue. Every time he opened his mouth someone thought he was about to attack, so they put the pace up.

The climb out of Dalmellington went past the picturesque open cast sites. The views must have left Kelly with a wonderful impression of Ayrshire. Whilst the Ayr duo was trying to keep Kelly away from the chasing pack, Wyllie tried to spearhead the chasing pack. But he soon realised that all he was doing was gloating at one former Ayr Roads rider, now with the triathletes who was suffer a slow and agonising death on the climb past Pennyvenie.how he must have regretted leaving a proper cycling club.

Despite the run into Ayr through Skares being aided with a tail wind and Kelly puncturing at Rankinston, Wyllie and Co never quite managed to catch him and his pals in the first group.

The day was a great advert for cycling and with over a dozen Ayr Road riders taking part it proved that the club is strong and active.....albeit some at a quicker pace than others.

New Zealand bound

Chairman Vic, Secretary Annie and her partner Paul are all off to New Zealand in February for some serious cycling. Vic is making a return trip to the South Pacific games where he will riding on the road and track. Whilst Annie and Paul will be competing in the Karapodi Mountain bike race which includes the highest off road route in New Zealand. *Good luck to all*

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