

THEN AND NOW

THEN: 1938

THREE RECORD ATTEMPTS

Last weekend three members of the Dunfermline Cycling Club tried their hand - or rather legs - at breaking their existing place-to-place records. The three riders were John Elder, Robert Brown and John Cramb, and the records attempted were Dunfermline - Stirling and back, Dunfermline - Bo'ness and back and Stirling - St. Andrews and back, respectively.

J. Elder was the only rider to finish successfully. He lowered the Dunfermline-Stirling and return club record by doing the 42.1/2 miles in 2 hrs. 1 min. 7 secs., beating the existing record put up by R. Brown by over 9 mins. The conditions were good, and the outward journey of 21.1/4 miles took 1 hr. 2 mins., whilst the return, helped by a following wind, took 53 secs. under the hour.

Robert Brown, who attempted the Bo'ness and return club record, was extremely unfortunate to find Kincardine Bridge just opening as he reached there, and as the bridge takes over 20 mins to re-close, the attempt had to be abandoned.

The third record attempt by John Cramb concerned the Fife Cycling Association's place-to-place record - Stirling to St. Andrews and return - put up by Fleming, of the Fife Road Club, in 1934 when he clocked 5 hrs. 30 mins. for the 101.3/4 miles.

Cramb started at Burnside, a point about midway between Stirling and St. Andrews and proceeded first to the St. Andrews check. After turning at the G.P.O. there, he had to face a rising wind, and he lost considerably on the stretch to Stirling where he had 1 hr. 9 mins. left to do 26.3/4 miles. The wind did not give the expected assistance and at Dollar, with 30 mins. left to do 14.1/2 miles, the attempt was abandoned.

NOW: 1995

Dunfermline and District Cycling Club: 5 mile Time Trial -

1. Grant Smith, 11mins 49secs;
 2. James Murray, 12.8;
 3. Stewart Murray, 12.18.
- Other local riders' times - M. Young 12.19; S. Glasgow 12.27; A. Dunsmore 13.16; C. McPhie 13.31; D. Robertson 13.54; F. McNair 13.57; Graeme Temple 13.59; Alistair Temple 15.24.

In the Denny Road Club 10 mile Time Trial, Mark Young was the club's fastest rider in 10th place with 23.3, Alec Temple returned 24.32. John Elder, the club's honorary president and longest serving member has broken two national age records this season. His latest was a new British Tricycle 10 mile record of 29.49 for his age of 77 years. Previously he had set a new Scottish Bicycle record of 27.44 over the same distance.

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APPEAL

I am currently researching the history of David Rattray & Co. Ltd., the former Glasgow builder of the "Flying Scot". This was one of the most popular racing bikes in Britain during the post-war cycling boom.

Of particular interest are the various models and method of frame identification prior to 1950. Also the "Pyrene" rust proofing process used, I believe, until the firms' demise in 1982. However, any snippets of any information on Flying Scots would be appreciated.

I would also like to contact any former member of the Murray Street staff or CTC members who could enlighten me on the above or ANY aspect of "Flying Scot" production.

Many thanks in anticipation.

John McNeill, Conival, Perth Road, Birnam, PH8 0BH.

HILLTOP MEMORIAL

In the autumn issue No.9 of Fife Wheels, John M. wanted to know where the "Indicator" is? On top of the hill overlooking Loch Leven. Follow the track up from the R.S.P.B. Reserve Vane Farm. When on the top move east a little.

The indicator was to be a low waist high wall built in local stone overlooking the loch, with a plaque indicating the hills to the north, east and west. The wall at the track was to be at seat level. The indicator was never finished due to vandals demolishing the walls as they were erected.

Several attempts to complete the work were made - but in the end it was decided to abandon it and place a plaque in the viewing room above the east window. Over the years, alterations were made in the viewing room and the plaque seems to have got lost.

The money was then spent on a bike rack and seats which are still there.


Bert Brown



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