

CYCLISTS' TOURING CLUB

FIFE DISTRICT ASSOCIATION — GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR 1922 - 1972

JUBILEE SOUVENIR MAGAZINE

JUNE 1972

Message from LESLIE WARNER, National Secretary, C.T.C.

Dear Members,

As our grand Club fast approaches its centenary year, it is of course only to be expected that the district associations too should find themselves passing more and more of the anniversary milestones.

This year it is the turn of the Fife D.A. — looking back over fifty years to that October day in Dunfermline in 1922. A good many changing miles have sped beneath the wheels of the D.A.'s members since then, although some of the names don't seem to have changed very much with the passing of time!

I am very happy to have this opportunity to wish the Fife D.A. well, not only for the Golden Jubilee year but also for those that still lie ahead. Although the formation of the CTC actually took place in Yorkshire, we must not forget that its founder and first Secretary — Stanley Cotterell — cycled down from Scotland for the formation gathering. Your present Secretary has a 'soft spot' for the country north of the border, and I shall look forward very much to being with the Fife D.A. for a few days later on in what I am sure will be a very enjoyable year for you all.

Yours sincerely,

Leslie Warner,
National Secretary.

10/3/72.

THE D. A. IN 1972

Rhoda Gardiner

Fife D.A. boundaries are far flung and it is not always easy for members to attend official club runs frequently. It is some time now since Fife D.A. organised major runs such as 24 and Century events within its own area, but members are cycling regularly to take part in Inter D.A. events such as the Fintry Socials, the Veterans' Runs to Linlithgow, to the York Rallies, and to the Rough Stuff Fellowship meets etc. Many of the members in West Fife are also members of the Dunfermline and District C.C., and are racing and taking part in events organised by that club.

The Saturday tea-run has always been a feature of the Fife D.A. programme and over the last few years has been attracting steadily growing numbers again. I am particularly happy to record that we are receiving increasing support from members in West Fife, with a high proportion of family and young members, surely a healthy sign for the future of the club.

I should also like to take this opportunity to thank Dunfermline and District C.C. for allowing us to use their clubroom on various occasions during the past few years, and especially those members who have given us hospitality there and have arranged the very enjoyable Burns' Suppers etc. At a recent meeting in the Dunfermline Club the TOM DAVIS CUP was presented to Mrs. Rita Cramb, Fife D.A. Secretary, in appreciation of the work she has done in leading groups of members to Inter D.A. events and in publicising the Club in West Fife.

The Annual Slide Show, which started ten years ago in our home when Jim Ellis came to show us his pass-storming and cycling slides before his departure to New Zealand, has proved so popular that it has been necessary since 1968 to move to a hall to accommodate the large numbers of members and friends who come to show their holiday slides and to see those of other members. The quality of slides shown is excellent and much appreciated. Fife D.A. bikes are to be seen from North Scotland to South Italy on these occasions. Members may like to know that the Ellis family is still cycling regularly in far away New Zealand.

The Annual Christmas Lunch provides a popular opportunity for some of the members to meet. Last year 18 attended at Leslie Station Hotel.

For many years now the opening run of the summer programme has been to Burntisland on the first Saturday in May by kind invitation of the President, Mr. W.L. Browne and Mrs. Browne. They hold 'open house' for the members, and this is probably one of the happiest occasions in the D.A.'s year.

OUR JUBILEE YEAR

Minnie Fraser

Our Jubilee Programme started off in great style with the President's Invitation Run on Saturday, 6th May. Old friendships were renewed and new ones made when more than 50 members – ages 4 to 80 – foregathered at 5, Dallas Avenue, Burntisland.

A sumptuous tea, served in several relays, was reminiscent – of Mrs. Lumsden's? (Lomond Hotel, Glenfarg), Mrs. Thomson's? (Ladybank), Mrs. Proven's? (Kirkliston). Not really; the President's invitation teas (and waitresses) are nonpareil! Even the President's bees never buzzed so loudly as we guests did in our reminiscent swarming!

We were very happy to be able to congratulate Mr. Zoller in person on his recent award of Honorary Life Membership of the Club in recognition of his 50 years' service. His new gold badge was very much admired. We were also very interested to see the silver wheel badge worn by Mrs. Zoller. This dates back to about 1890, a relic from an early member. It has a hinged side which opens to reveal a tiny metal disc inside bearing name and number of C.T.C. member. Another interesting badge was worn by Mrs. David Todd, Edinburgh (formerly Miss Lamb of Burntisland). This was a Bronze and enamel souvenir badge given to those who took part in the 1928 Jubilee Relay Race (elsewhere reported in this magazine).

A happy feature of the afternoon was the number of teenage newcomers present who had cycled to Burntisland for the occasion. Several third generation Brownes had also cycled to the meet, while still younger ones were initiated into riding on the back seat of a tandem by an untiring and obliging 'Uncle Tom'.

A Greetings telegram from Mr. Bloore, also several letters of congratulations were read out by the Jubilee Secretary, Mrs. May Brown. She reported that she had just heard that same morning that Fife County Council had decided to put a flower bed in honour of the Jubilee at the Tay Road Bridge. Mrs. Cramb, Dunfermline, (Sec. of the D.A.) informed us that Dunfermline also is honouring the Club in this way, and is putting a flower bed near the centre of the town.

Coming events of this Jubilee year are:-

- May 27 BIRTHDAY RUN Meet Culross 10 a.m. Cycle via Powmill to Vane Farm Nature Reserve, Loch Leven for picnic. 3 p.m.
- June 10 PICNIC Dunfermline Glen. 3 p.m. (Near Coal Rd. Gate).
- June 24 RALLY at BULLEN MEMORIAL HUT, Myrehaugh. 2 p.m.
- Sept. 2 PICNIC Leslie Park 2 p.m. Falkland Youth Hostel Weekend.
- Oct 14 HIGHLIGHT OF THE YEAR Social at The Civic Centre Hall, Inverkeithing. 5.30 – 10.30. Mr. Leslie Warner, Secretary of the C.T.C. has kindly accepted our invitation to be present.

We hope all members and friends will come along and make this a
HAPPY AND SUCCESSFUL EVENING'

RECOLLECTIONS OF 50 YEARS CYCLE TOURING

William Brown, Dunfermline

One by-product of the Electricity Cuts during this year's Miners' Strike was the opportunity to sit in Candlelight and think of past experiences. I first of all let my memory go back to just before the Fife D.A. was formed in 1922; to the German Tour that six members of the Fife Section of the Lothians D.A. carried out; these six members were included in the original membership of the newly formed Fife D.A. During this tour, the thing we appreciated most was the extraordinary cheapness. Dinner, Bed and Breakfast in the best hotels working out in our money at round about 1/6. This was due to exchange rate being at that time 1000 marks to the £1, when normally it was 20 to the £1. Money talked on that tour, as witness the effect of a 20 Mark note on a Railway Ticket Collector who scraped off a label on the only empty carriage that we could find on the Berlin to Magdeburg train. The word on that label was DAMEN. We had filled it. How were we to know the German for 'Ladies Only'?

Experiences, mostly happy, crowd into my memory of the many years I enjoyed, and the many characters I met on the Saturday afternoon runs when, long before the motorist spoiled it all, it was possible to go to some hotel or other for tea and a chat. I'm afraid that is out now by reason of the financial situation. However, although at that time most hotels were glad to see us, a small minority had 'reservations'; I recall one rather snobbish place that seemed to cater for sparrows. After the Run's Secretary had six times to ask for more bread, more butter, more jam, he said to the Proprietor 'I'm afraid we won't be back here'. The quick rejoinder was; 'I'm pretty sure you won't.'

Then there was the other hotel where, when we sat down to tea, we noticed that the butter was all done in lovely curly shapes; more was asked for and plain slices were on the plates. Still more had to be asked for and the waitress came in with a huge piece saying; 'Here, tak' a daud affa that!'

I was a member of the party that spent the first night in the Myrehaugh Hut. Being absolute novices at this game I can well remember how we all undressed completely and donned our pyjamas to slip under our one blanket. When we finally got up in the morning, all we had to put on was boots. However, on subsequent weekends, we were very much better prepared for the cold nights.

On a 24 hour run, not long after drumming up at Braemar and starting on the return journey, a member's chain broke and only through the kindness of a Blairgowrie housewife, who had left her clothes rope out, were we able to tow him to the breakfast hotel.

It was recollections like those and many more, that made the 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Power Cuts bearable.