

## 2018

RttS 2018! What can I say about this ride? 5 stars! This was my first time doing it and it lived up to everything I heard about it. I loved the flash mob feeling to the whole thing. People and groups just turning up at Bitts Park in Carlisle to ride through the night to see the sunrise at Cramond Edinburgh. The atmosphere at the start was great, catching up with friends and like-minded people before setting off with a long chain of riders stretched out all the way north. Re-grouping with the mob at Moffat for chips and the Crook Inn for the Cyclorave and Bananaman before blasting through the streets of Edinburgh and re assembling for a bacon roll and the sunrise. Then when it's done everybody disperses home, some carrying on by bike (!), as if it never happened. But it did and will live on in the memories of those who were there (and maybe a few drunks in Edinburgh!). My highlight was the climb in the dark up the Devils Beef Tub which was magical with a ribbon of red lights showing the way and a surprise at the top. Loved every minute of it and so well organised and supported by volunteers doing it for the love of cycling and raising cash for charity. Get on it for 2019!

What an amazing thing that's been dreamt up here. You'd think it's the maddest thing ever, what with doing a hundred miles through the night, stopping for a kebab and the midgie swarm in Moffat, a piper at the top of a big hill and the sound of Good Life by Inner City pumping out in a rave (lasers! smoke machines!) in the middle of nowhere and then playing dodge the drunk as you bolt down the Lothian Road before you arrive at some ungodly hour and still find people up and willing to serve you bacon rolls and tea at Cramond Kirk Hall ... but when you're riding, it makes the most sense ever and is all you'd want to be doing. Highly recommended - if you're thinking about doing it, just do it.

My favourite one day ride...ever!

Brilliant event. The buzz in Carlisle before the start was amazing, the route was not too challenging, so it was suitable for a wide range of abilities and I'll bet loads were completing a 100 mile ride for the first time. Great chatting to folk along the way and at Moffat waiting in line for chips. Loved seeing those who'd taken the trouble to put lights on their wheels and helmets. There weren't many dancing at the cyclo rave at the Crook Inn, but what a feeling as you came along the dark road shivering from the descent of the Devil's Beef Tub to be greeted by the thumping dance tunes echoing into the night and the fab light show. Coming into Edinburgh and seeing how busy it was at stupid o'clock in the morning was surreal after the long hours cycling along through deserted streets of the small villages along the route. A big thanks to everyone who helped organise the event and were out there all night working hard to make it such an enjoyable event.

Yet again a fantastic Ride to the Sun. The weather helped, yet another lovely sunset. This highlights in this ride are many, including (but not limited to) the madness of Moffat, all cyclists, vintage cars and Linda's Fish and Chips; the lights winding up the Devil's Beef Tub, with the "Brigadoon" skirl of pipes; the CycloRave featuring Bananaman at The Crook Inn; the light slowly increasing as we pass through Penicuik; Edinburgh at 3am; and arriving to a new dawn at Cramond. Gary and Fraser, you've made something very special here.

By far the most unique, entertaining and friendliest sportive ride in the country! England, Scotland, Romans, tailwind, chips, darkness, a rave, breakfast rolls on arrival, free beer and the sunrise! Not only all this but also, beautiful commemorative jerseys from Tørm! What's not to like! Thanks again for starting it, developing it and running it guys, long may it continue!

My 1st Ride to the Sun (2018)...absolutely phenomenal event...fun, crazy, inspiring...where else could you get a chip stop after 44 miles, a piper at the top of a climb, a rave after 61 miles and cracking bacon rolls, free beer and an incredible sunrise at the end!?

This is just the most fun you can have on a bike. A brilliant atmosphere, friendly and social, dark roads lit by a moon through the trees and all you can hear is the hiss of tyres and the click-clack of gears changing. RttS is just so much better because it's all done for the love - which makes the hard work that goes into making it happen even more impressive.

On behalf of Cupar Velo a big thank you to Gary and Fraser and the gang for organising another Ride to the Sun and I heard it was the best yet! Hats off to these guys - not shafting cyclists for cash - but putting on a wee free ride with some quality entertainment on the way! Also money was raised for charity here which is fantastic. I had a great time and so did my friends. Thanks also to Shep and Neil for the Disco. Respect.

When you wake up Monday morning, and think did that really happen? Living the dream 🚲 🍷 🍷 has to be experienced to understand? Well done for everything.

And on a personal note, the balls-out descent from Penicuik into Edinburgh will be the greatest thing I've done on a bike as long as I have a hole in my arse. Ride to the Sun is not a bike ride. It's an adventure.

Ridden it every year so far, with a large supported group and with a just a couple of friends/brother. Fantastic event however you choose to ride it. It's almost like a mid year Christmas, something I really look forward to with almost childish excitement.

Hi guys, just wanted to thank you for a brilliant event, my first ever, never having had done more than 40 miles before and knowing it was gonna take me 10 hours I still wanted to try it. Apart from the midges in Moffat and the cold in the night, was brilliant and I completed it and so proud of myself for doing it. Would like to thank the Scouts for the brilliant organisation from Edinburgh, thanks to the young piper at the top of that dam hill, boy was I glad to get up there. And if you're a beginner like me, get out and try these things, they aren't as hard as you think, as long as you keep to your own pace and remember its not a race you'll manage to do it.

Absolutely fantastic event! Thank you Fraser and Gary. I never thought my first 100 miler would be so uplifting and fun. So much thought has gone into this. The piper at the top of Beef Tub had my chin wobbling, dancing at the rave boosted me all the way to Edinburgh. I don't think I'll be able to resist next year...

First time for our wee crew and it was quite an incredible experience! Amazing to organise such an event. Seeing the lights from the Crook Inn through the trees heralded another milestone - with a fire pit to that the chills from that descent! Perfect!!!

Amazing event and so pleased I was able to take part. So well organised. Fish n chips were fab (and thanks for the bug spray), the piper at the top of the hill was an incredible sight and sound as we approached them. The banana rave and glow sticks were hilarious (and bananas yummy) and the Scouts did a fantastic job of providing food, hot drinks and scrummy cakes at the end of a fabulous adventure. We will definitely be there next year. Thank you.

What an event!!! Pulling into the Crook Inn with The Prodigy blasting out was sheer brilliance.

Done...awesome, crazy, brilliant...quite simply a must do event.

My favourite moment of last night was "Brigadoon". When climbing the Devil's Beef Tub, I thought I caught a skirl of the pipes coming over the hillside. I thought I was imagining it, a post-chippy, 4% gradient haze that made me hear an imaginary sound, but I shortly confirmed it with a companion. And then up over the top and there was the piper playing Auld Lang Syne - magical! (but real!)

Wow, what an event this was! It is definitely one of a kind and one that every cyclist should experience at least once. However, I am sure it will become an annual pilgrimage for many year on year. It certainly will be for us!

What an absolute pleasure and a privilege it was to ride (again) with 800+ like-minded loons, who think pedalling 100 miles through the night and being eaten alive by midgies is a good idea! Thank you to all who made it so!

## **2017**

Thanks again for the 3rd years antics...really appreciate that you lot create such a great adventure for so many participants by your own hard work.....RttS puts most expensive events to shame again this year! Best regards.

Great ride. What's not to love? Its free, well organised, great fish n chips, a rave and very friendly people

Huge thanks for a cracking night. Loved the rave...what a hoot! Best 100 miles

Awesome "event" again lads. It just gets better and better. Here's to next year.

Big thanks to Fraser and Gary for organising such a great ride and to all the others who helped make it a great event.

Thank you so much for organising such a fantastic event. It was amazing to see so many people of all abilities out on their bike...achieving personal targets...or just individual/groups taking part...we really enjoyed every minute (did I just say that!) Got some pics of our adventure last night, Rebecca (my daughter and only 14) and myself setting a personal achievement...with my husband doing 202 miles to meet us in Carlisle then back to Edinburgh, xx

A huge thanks to Fraser and Gary for a brilliant event and for the endless supply of midge protein between the Beef Tub and the Crook Inn. Was my first RttS but certainly will not be my last!

Thank you Fraser and Gary for laying on a great event and weather and thanks also to the lovely friendly people of Allen Valley Velo who let me ride with them for the night!

The organisation was flawless, thanks for making our first Ride to the Sun a very positive and enjoyable experience!!!!

Done a few overnight rides but this is streets ahead.

Amazing event guys seeing all those bike lights going up the Beef Tub. Thanks for the great helpers and to all the other cyclists making it a friendly event. Love a cyclorave!

Absolutely fantastic and friendly event, great camaraderie, relatively quiet roads and a cyclorave thrown in, what more can you ask for? Would highly recommend, roll on next year.

Thanks to you guys Fraser Maxwell and Gary Cameron. You've made this a really accessible event that even 'low experience' amateurs like me can come and really enjoy. Tip of the cap to you both. Looking forward to next year. PS the nips are slowly getting less sensitive now!

Best bacon roll of the year by some distance! Once again a fantastic effort from Fraser and Gary and their extended team-many thanks. If Carlsberg could do 100 miles of cycling...Thanks again gents. For the third years (2<sup>nd</sup> double) adventure. As a mere-mortal I enjoy RttS (and moon) due to it being about the journey and friendly folks rather than the snobbery of other events. All the work you folks put into organising is very much appreciated and enjoyed. Best regards!

Chayton wanted to thank you guys for allowing him to take part in an amazing event and thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it, even the Devil's Beef Tub which he talked my ears off all the way up and insisted on getting photos of the views at the top. Couldn't be a better way to get his first 100 and doing it to raise awareness and money for a cause that means so much to him and has helped him and our family through tough times. Again Fraser and Gary thank you both so much from us all and hope to see you guys out and around in the future.

Cracking ride, an easy start on the B7076 before Moffat gets you suitably warmed up for the ascent into the light sky on the Beef Tub with the valley below descending into night. It would be far too tempting to stay and throw shapes at the Crook Inn rave but you must crack on for Leadburn where you can enjoy the descent to the Forth and sunrise. For those who find 100 miles just a wee bit too short, throw in an out and back or more adventurous loop to get your distance up. (And save on the logistical faff of a point to point ride). I'll be back next year,

Thank you for organising such a wonderful event and huge kudos to every single rider who completed either a century or in some cases a double! Fantastic friendly people all the way from Carlisle to Cramond and I couldn't have wished for a better event to claim my first century!

Was the best bike ride I've ever done! Start to finish was first class. Some smart surprises on the way. Will certainly be back next year. Thanks for all the hard work and effort that must have gone into it.

You guys are the best. Big thanks from all the Carlisle Reivers - epic night!

Thanks! First century and totally wonderful. Great to meet Linda and so many amazing keen funny people. Loved the rave and all of it in fact!

Fantastic event again Fraser and Gary, lasagne and coffee really hit the spot and lets not forget the bacon roll and coffee at the end, wee Chayton Read had a fantastic run and never complained once (apart from the midge descent from hell) but to be fair we all complained about that, see you all next year!

Thanks so much for organising that guys! I missed out last year due to injury, but it just made the enjoyment this year greater! So many friendly people, and couldn't have asked for better weather. Didn't stop for the rave (bar a bit of saddle dancin'), but I hear you guys got savaged anyway...I'll bring the midge repellent next year!

Have to say everyone on the ride was very friendly and lots of 'alrights', 'hellos' and 'doing oks'. Bacon roll in Cramond kirk and the cake were delicious.

Thanks a mill guys...and to all your helpers, fantastic ride! We added the miles back to Abington...and we were burst! Lol...was all quite surreal...a rave in the middle of nowhere...beers on the beach at sunrise and a brilliant crowd of people...will definitely recommend this one to friends

Brilliant event and a really friendly atmosphere, a great event for anybody looking at getting their first century run in the bag, can't recommend it enough

Thanks for organising a fine event and thanks to everyone for friendliness along the ride - in particular Albannach.cc for letting an old bloke sit in for a fast 20 miles or so near the end, and Carlisle Reivers for an entertaining blast through Edinburgh. Midge fog downhill from Beef Tub was an experience!

A brilliant night.....riding under that starless sky was awesome...having the rave in the middle of nowhere was brilliant...can't fault any of it. Just totally brilliant...although the ride back to Abington hurt but was worth it. Chapeau Gary and Fraser

Well done for organising the event. Twas my first, and at the moment we're saying we'll be back next year. Thanks for the beer.

Thank you RttS....one to remember! Met some lovely people, bacon rolls were divine.

Loved this event guys, really well organised and great people all round. That descent from the Beef Tub to the Crook Inn was epic. And hats off to those guys doing a double. To next year...

First time doing RttS and probably not the last. Thanks for all of the organisation and planning that goes into an event of such a scale

Well, you two guys certainly know how to disappoint! There's no way next year could be as good as this year! No way! Thanks for organising!

Cracking night, thanks Fraser and Gary for a brilliant route and everyone riding for a fantastic atmosphere. Loved it, totally and utterly loved it.

Awesome night. Huge thanks to the organisers and all cyclists. Brilliant 100 miles.

Great event, great weather, great experience...I can now claim to be a Centurion...thanks for organising

Absolutely fantastic night. My first century ride. RttS is an amazing event and we will definitely be back next year.

Thanks for your efforts. As above possibly the best ride I've ever done!

That was epic...again! Thank you Fraser, Gary and all who made this so. A big toot, toot from the Allen Valley Velo train.

Most enjoyable ton and most enjoyable night ride I've ever done. Everything was just right. Chapeau to all involved in facilitating. You should need rightly proud of yourselves. See you again next year - please also arrange similar weather. Ta!

Hi. Haven't stopped talking about it to anyone who does or doesn't want to hear about it.

Fraser, Gary; thanks to you both, and all your own thanked-people, for a great event. We've all been raving about it to our club mates and will hopefully be there next year with our Plus-1s! Sol Invictus from Arria Wheelers!

Absolutely loved my first century and Ride to the Sun, great comradely and supportive atmosphere from the local communities along the route and for the last 10 miles some new friends to share the exhaustion.

Just to say a very big thank you for an amazing experience, my first ever cycle event and absolutely loved it, fantastic route and experience, well done to you and everyone involved.

Thanks once again for making this ride what it is, it's still my favourite to date, for so many reasons, the cracking weather was just the icing on the cake too.

Wow - didn't know I could do this kind of thing. Thanks for making it possible with great organisation, plus a lot of team spirit and mutual support en route. GREAT event!!!

Thank you to the team and all your family, friends and volunteers who put in so much thought, effort and humour to make such a brilliant event, you thought of pretty much everything. Already looking forward to next year.

## **2016**

I cannot even begin to tell you how much my husband and I enjoyed the ride to the sun 2016! We got rid of the kids and then caught the train up to Carlisle from Southport on Saturday - not really sure what was happening but I've never met such a friendly bunch of cyclists - everyone was really cheerful and encouraging - even when the morning was moving on! The lasagne and chips was lovely in Moffat and then the climb up Devils Beef Tub was the strangest experience of my life - just following the odd red flashing light as it appeared to climb and drop off the face of the earth - until we picked it up again on the next bend. As we went through Edinburgh, I asked myself what on earth I was doing - wouldn't I be happier falling out of the clubs and into a taxi like everyone else but surprisingly my answer was that I was really enjoying myself! To see the

beautiful red sunrise at Cramond just made me smile - that was our goal to make it by sunrise and we did it. Again such a lovely atmosphere. you sincerely to you, your families and friends for the organising and commitment that you all show. This is such a fantastic idea - thank you so much for sharing it with everyone else.

So let me get this straight!! Not only do you get served bananas by Bananaman, You get a rave in the middle of nowhere with some random in a yellow morph suit for entertainment! You get to buy a bacon roll and a coffee at the end where the proceeds go towards funds for an extremely worthy charity. You then get handed a free beer from a random stranger at Cramond beach AND you get to cycle 100 miles with some amazing like-minded people on some of the quietest roads I've ever ridden and it's all included in the registration fee of £0.00? Gary Cameron and Fraser Maxwell take a bow gents!! Absolutely outstanding and a real "get it up ye" to all the s'wanky expensive sportives out there these days...chapeau gents!

Best event I have participated in, well organised thanks to the select few giving up considerable time and ££££ to encourage cyclists of all abilities to join in the least snobbish event, where participation beats Strava KoMs! Thanks for running it again next year!

The best event I've ever done.

A massive thank you to Gary Cameron and Fraser Maxwell for putting on this brilliant event. At £5 this is both the most expensive and best value bacon roll I've had (as well as the most enjoyable. This event was free to enter and profits for the sale of this roll - served by volunteers at 2:30 on a Sunday morning! - went to a homeless charity. Brilliant!!! The ethos, non-competitiveness, camaraderie and atmosphere of this event puts other events to shame.

What a brilliant event guys - so well organised and so many great people on the ride. The fish supper and midnight rave were awesome. This will be the first event on the diary for next year. Thanks.

It felt like an anti-sportive. No cost, no finisher's medal, just loads of people riding their bikes for the hell of it. Was a great atmosphere, felt like a ride organised by bikers for bikers rather than anything more corporate.

Near perfect conditions, great scenery, fantastic camaraderie, smooth roads, drunken revellers offering encouragement through the Capital...the feeling of a closed road event for the grand price of £HeeHaw...muchos kudos dudes.

Just woken up and what an absolutely tremendous night! Show me another ride that offers such a great route, a kebab stop just before a 7 mile climb, a random cyclorave and great hospitality at the end due to Fresh Start and the Cramond locals... massive thanks to Fraser and Gary for making it happen and bring on 2017!!!

You won't get many better sights or sounds than a DJ playing banging tunes in the deepest, darkest depths of the Borders in the middle of the night or the glorious sunrise at Cramond. Chapeau Gary and Fraser. Awesome event. Brilliant support too from Bill and Steve, Linda at the chippy in Moffat and the guys serving breakfast on arrival.

Brilliant night - cheers for all your hard work in organising such a great event! And thanks to all the support helpers too.

Wow!! Just wow guys! A massive thank you for organising. Fantastic night in the saddle.

Awesome event, thanks all for a great night and thanks to the weather gods for being awesome.

What a great event....thoroughly enjoyed it. Fantastic atmosphere and just inspired. Here's to next year.

Thanks for putting together a fantastic event. Free beer at the end too. I'll be back for sure.

Epic, just plain epic!

Absolutely brilliant event - bikes, beautiful scenery, chippy stop, Bananaman, cyclorave, banter from like-minded people, camaraderie, stunning sun rise, free beer and a belting bacon butty. All of that for free - why wouldn't you!? Awesome event run by great guys. See you next year!

Just brilliant. Never cycled more than 50 miles in one go before but this has instantly got me hooked. Great atmosphere, well organised, friendly, and amazingly downhill... Can't wait for the next one!

This was the highlight of our cycling year. Thank you for a masterful "one off" in the cycling calendar.

What a great ride. The disco stop was surreal and brilliant. In an Apocalypse Now sort of way. Who was the jester who gave me a banana? Whoever you were, I think I love you.

I don't think we could've had a better night.

Fraser, I got to say hello to Gary at the start and finish, but not yourself, so thanks for putting the "event" on. It's a great compromise between organisation and not losing the fun doing something a bit mad. The sight of a string of lights winding their way quietly up the Beef Tub was something special. Cheers.

Another vote for a superb night out. Dry, clear skies, full moon and what felt like a tailwind all the way to Edinburgh. Fraser, nice to meet you and Gary at the start and thanks very much for getting all this going. It's the first through the night ride that I have done and it was great following all those lights up the A701, with some good chat along the way, even the drunks in Penicuik were on good form.

I just wanted to say a huge thank you for an excellent event on Saturday. I met some nice people on brilliant cycling roads and the spirit of adventure heading through the night was fantastic. We couldn't have had better weather or hospitality at the halts or finish. Please pass on my thanks again to everyone who helped make the event happen it really was outstanding.

Just a quick note, like many others I'd imagine, to say thanks very much for selflessly organising such a brilliant event. Conditions were perfect and the groups riding on the road made the journey faster and more comradely! Loved the DJ at the Crook – as you say, 'surreal'. Weirder still the way the music faded quickly into the night behind once we'd left.

I had serious reservations about doing this and only reluctantly committed to do it the Thursday prior when I handed my kit for the finish to Lucy. Can undoubtedly say that this was my best cycling experience ever. Seriously. Highly recommended.

## **2015**

Did it, loved it, in diary for next year. Thanks Gary and Fraser and also the volunteers at Cramond. Some so called professional sportive organising companies could learn a thing or two from you. The string of lights winding up the Devil's Beef Tub at midnight was a sight to behold.

I just wanted to say what a cracking (and little bit wet) ride I had. I've not cycled much at night but great atmosphere, lack of traffic and the bonus of seeing more wildlife (bats, fox, badger, deer and a family of geese at Johnstonebridge services) makes for a very fun cycle. A big thank you and I'll look forward to seeing you again in 2016.

Many thanks for setting up the Ride to the Sun, we had a truly great time. The Moffat chip shop was brilliant and they were so patient. We arrived at Cramond on time, just before dawn, tired but elated.

Really enjoyed the ride, what a well-run 'non-organised' event. It was a huge challenge for our wee group, we had such an adventure, thanks guys.

Thank you for a great event. The route was great, smooth, quiet - even early on and the miles whizzed by! An even bigger thank you to the catering staff who provided a fantastic bacon roll at the finish. Well done for providing food in the middle of the night for us mad cyclists!

A great event guys. Really enjoyed it, and hopefully you will be doing it again. My first ever overnight road ride, brilliant route for it.

Thanks for a great event guys, see you next year. The Ride to the Sun should be on everyone's list of rides to do.

Beautiful, surreal, hard, weird, amazing, crazy...

What a great ride that was and so enjoyable to meet lots of like-minded people having a good time. Big thanks to Fraser and Gary, to the chip shop folk in Moffat who dealt with a pile of sodden starving cyclists with great good humour, to 'Bananaman' at the Crook Inn and to all the volunteers at Cramond.

Great to do something different, the chicken kebab and chips in Moffat and the bacon rolls in Cramond were a particular highlight as was climbing the Devils Beef Tub watching all the lights!

That was epic! Thanks to all who made it so. See you next year. From the Allen Valley Velo.

Great effort by Gary and Fraser, top laughs had by all and everyone on route was in great spirits!!

Thanks for having the idea and motivation for making it happen. Absolutely enjoyed every minute of the ride, even the rain didn't dampen our spirits - though having our 'world famous' Dalmeny 801 support bus was a huge help!

Chapeau sirs. Brilliant way to celebrate the solstice.

Can I just say 'that looks pure dead brilliant man'.

Cheers guys, that was great. We had a blast, it felt like a proper mini-adventure and everyone needs a bits of adventure in their life.

That was really great fun and this event deserves to go from strength to strength. Never ridden any distance on the road at night and it is surprisingly therapeutic. Watching all those blinky red lights curl away into the night was a lovely sight. Nice route too.

Excellent event. Well organised, friendly down to earth organisers and a bit different to the usual. Would highly recommend.

Guys - what an amazing event. Well done both of you. In the darkest hour around 70 miles I fully intended to throw you both in the river at Cramond but after my second wind blowing me along to arrive 2 minutes before sunrise I fully intended to kiss you both. I decided to do neither but went for a bacon roll instead. See you all next year!

One word. #awesome

A bit bonkers makes the best memories!