



HOWZAT!



ROTARY CLUB OF NEWLANDS

“The club that appeals”



President: Graham Finlayson
Secretary: Bill Meyer



Editor: Peter Ennis

e-mail: howzat@newlands.org.za

Newlands Rotary website: www.newlands.org.za

Rotary District 9350 website: www.rotary9350.co.za

5 March 2018

WEEKLY UPDATE

P O Box 44735
CLAREMONT
7735

MEETINGS: Western Province Cricket Club Sports Centre, Ave De Mist, Rondebosch, every Monday at 18h00 for 18h15.

ATTENDANCE: Notice of apologies and guests and/or meal specifics to email Paul Spiller at dr.paul.spiller@gmail.com and copy to Bill Meyer at meyport@iafrica.com before 10h00 on Monday mornings please.

Comment

The Editor

Cape Town Cycle Tour History

From the [website](#)

It all began with a leisurely breakfast in 1977. The breakfastees – engineer Bill Mylrea and architect John Stegmann – can even remember what the breakfast cost: a princely R1. The subject was cycling, cycling safety for the small number of recreational cyclists who travelled the roads of the Western Cape, and mobility for the masses.



What Cape Town needed as it expanded apace, more than anything else, was a network of safe and efficient cycle paths that would keep riders safe and allow commuters to get to and from work swiftly and in one piece. After many years of submitting, pleading, begging and cajoling, these efforts were getting nowhere, mainly thanks to government's lack of will, and partly because of lack of kickbacks. Not even a 3 000-signature petition could persuade the Department of Transport to just look into the possibilities. It became clear that the established cyclists needed to revolt. And so they did. Mylrea and Stegmann created The Big Ride In.

Held under the auspices of the newly formed Western Province Pedal Power Association (now called PPA) in 1977, it set out to demonstrate that, actually, a lot of people rode bikes. And so they did, with hundreds riding into the Cape Town CBD, to the City Hall, the Grand Parade, Adderley Street and the Foreshore. Included in their number was the mayor, John Tyers. And it was impressive, to all but the relevant authority, which still saw no future for bike paths. From this hugely unsuccessful success was born the Peninsula Marathon – a gruelling event that would, according to the experts at the WPPPA ‘require at least two months’ preparation’. They even went as far as recommending: ‘Unless you are able to spend R300–R500 on a super machine, your best bet is a ten-speed tourer (with drop handlebars, if you like) for around R100 new, or R50–R75 second-hand.’ The Peninsula Marathon never saw the light of day, as an event. In late 1978 legendary Cape Town mountain biker and potter Steve Shapiro harangued the marketing folk at The Argus (where he was working at the time) to get involved.

It was to be a mass-participation event open to all who wanted to enter. That second bit was important: this was a trying time for forward-thinking sports administrators, and actually for forward-thinking humans. From the outset, the organising committee wanted the Cycle Tour to be an official, sanctioned event, but no matter how much the Department of Sport loved the idea and wanted a part of it, their proviso that it only be open to white participants remained a stumbling block, to the degree that Mylrea was forced to write the department’s representative an extremely polite letter in the build-up to the event, telling him that this was a non-segregated event. This was brave stuff in the late 1970s, when BJ Vorster and PW Botha were ruling the roost. But the spirit of cycling, and its inclusivity, prevailed, and on 28 October 1978 over 500 cyclists left the start line outside the Castle in Strand Street.

The route we know and love today almost didn’t happen, on a number of levels. Initially, a number of options were looked at – northwards to Melkbos and back; out to Paarl for a 250–300km return trip; at one point it was even going to be a two-dayer – before the founding fathers settled on a start as close to the City Hall as they dared, before heading south along the newly built Blue Route freeway and on down to Simon’s Town. From there, the initial plan was to head into the Cape Point Nature Reserve, turn around at the farthest point, and for the riders to return whence they came.

Unfortunately (or fortunately, if the thought of 35,000 riders negotiating that narrow reserve road in two directions is too scary), the managers of the park, SANParks in today’s parlance, threw their toys out of the cot, and rather than kowtow to yet another quasi-government department, the organisers decided to bypass the entrance to the reserve and head through Misty Cliffs, over Slangkop and then Chapman’s Peak and Suikerbossie, before finishing at the lamp-post opposite what is now The Bay Hotel (it was called the Rotunda in 1978), where a pair of tables welcomed finishers.

The plan was to start with a bang – the SADF was persuaded to ‘fire’ a cannon from one of the Castle ramparts; in reality, they agreed to put a thunderflash in what looked like a cannon. At 07:00, precisely nothing happened, as those entrusted with our national safety failed completely to ignite the glorified firework, housed in a cannonesque steel pipe that was also packed with flour to simulate smoke. After some muttering, a second attempt was made, with disastrous effect as the entire contraption blew up. Thankfully nobody was hurt, and the first batch of riders – the non-registered – got under way.

From its infancy, the Cycle Tour set standards in world cycling, and world sport. This was to be the first time that the average Joes would race the same course at the same time as the officially sanctioned racing cyclists. The world and national governing bodies were, and still are, dead set against this happening, for any number of nonsensical reasons, but the organisers were determined to have a celebration of cycling for all cyclists, so the split-group arrangement was instituted to great effect. The event would separate the two well into the 1990s, and the federations are still, regularly, threatening 'their' riders with dire consequences if they ride this unsanctioned monster, 41 years later. Thankfully, sense prevails each time, unmentionables are unknotted and the biggest timed bike race in the world marches on.

This is an excerpt from Cape Town Cycle Tour, the authorized history of the world's greatest bike race, available in the online souvenir store. Buy your copy [here](#)

Previous Meeting

Minutes of the meeting on 26 February 2018

Scribe: Richard House

Sergeant Mike Walwyn opened the Business Meeting and requested President Graham Finlayson to welcome the guest: Karen O-Connor from RC Santa Rosa.

The Object of Rotary was given by Graham Lowden and Pieter van Aswegen said grace and toasted RI and RC Santa Rosa. The wine swindler Paul Spiller was not present at the meeting so no wine swindle was carried out.

President Graham carried out a banner exchange with Karen O-Connor. Karen thanked the club for having her. She was looking forward to making a visit to Leap School and then reporting back to her club on her return.

As we were waiting for the arrival of members from a Cycle Tour meeting, Sergeant Mike then requested spots:

- Garnet Carr thanked members for support during a difficult time.
- Jenny Ibotson advised that the German exchange student Lukas was still needing a 2 month internship. Accommodation was also required for May. Nominations for the Awards Evening (1st meeting in April) were needed.
- Richard House advised that the 2018 Rotary Family Fun Day had been cancelled due to the state of the usual site for the event, as a result of the current drought and that it was proposed to have the 2019 event in Somerset West.
- Bill Holland advised that planning for the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the club this year was underway and requested photos of the last 25 years in to be sent to him in any format. The Ballroom at Kelvin Grove had been provisionally booked on 24 November 2018 for the event and it was proposed that it would be combined with the annual club Christmas Dinner.
- Andrew Peile spoke of a system that releases dry ice when intruders strike. The source of dry ice was queried.
- Richard Burnett updated the meeting on his Ransomware experience.

President Graham then requested Jenny Ibotson to present her International and Vocational report: Nine students have been awarded full bursaries by the club and a few new partial bursaries had also been awarded. Lundiswa had passed with flying colours and had also been awarded a partial bursary.

Incoming groups from Upstate New York and Sweden required accommodation.

Pieter van Aswegen advised he had a computer to donate to a needy bursary student and was thanked by the club for his work on this.

Jenny Howard then presented an update on the Cycle Tour:

Arrangements were finally coming together in a big way! There was still a shortage of Marshals. Event documents had now been completed and all required staff recruited.

Important dates of meetings:

Wednesday 28 March: Sector Marshalls Briefing: With 3 route options this year the role of SM's was vital this year.

Thursday 1 March: Ben Hur (Kelvin Grove). All role players to attend a short overview of Refreshment Stations and then there would be a break-away session for individual stations.

Tuesday 6 March: Compulsory meeting for everyone involved on the day - regarding event safety and Route D.

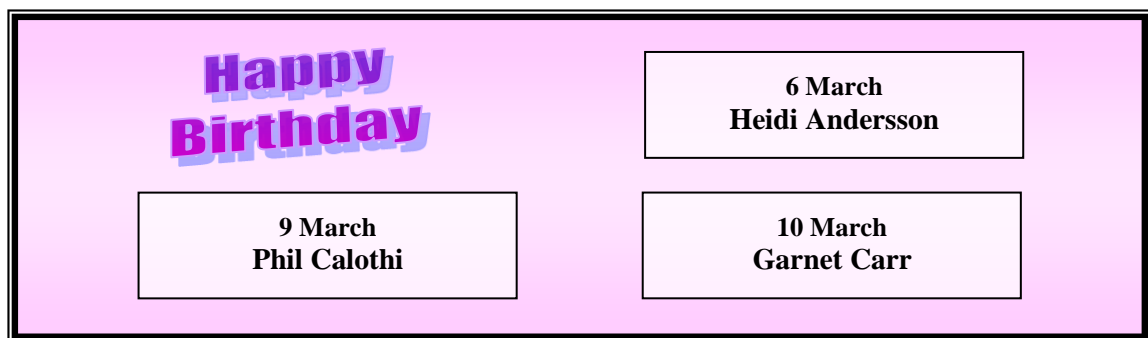
President Graham then updated the meeting on the following:

The Big Walk: A number of meetings had been held and Spartan Harriers have indicated that they are keen to be involved with the event. There seems to be significant support for the re-instatement of the event. It is not clear yet if there will be an event this year.

Water Distribution (Day Zero): Lew Botha had handled a large amount of emails relating to this! RC Springs have offered to send water for needy groups in Cape Town. There had been issues with moving borehole water and thus only bottled water would be accepted. Some water was due to arrive this week. Assistance will be needed from members moving water to the Northern Suburbs where needy groups had been identified. With Day Zero having been pushed back there was now more time available for planning. Many South African RC's had offered assistance. Lew Botha thanked Janey Ball for her support and assistance. More details on water distribution were available District Facebook page,

Sergeant Mike then regaled the meeting with some A-F-R-I-C-A-N stories before Chris Beech collected Happy Rands.

The meeting was closed at 7:45 pm.





[Newlands Rotary Club Runner Calendar](#)

FUTURE FIXTURES

Year Planner

Please advise the secretary promptly of any additions or changes

March 2018

Mon 5 Partners

Sun 11 Cape Town Cycle Tour

Mon 12 War Stories

Mon 19 Ordinary

Mon 26 Business

April 2018

Mon 2 No meeting (Easter Monday)

Mon 9 Partners – **Vocational Evening**

Mon 16 Ordinary

Mon 23 Ordinary - tbc

Mon 30 Business - tbc

Jargon Extraordinaire

A paragraph from an unnamed "publication from a leading geographical society":

The examples given suggest that the multiformity of environmental apprehension and the exclusivity of abstract semantic conceptions constitute a crucial distinction. Semantic responses to qualities, environmental or other, tend to abstract each individual quality as though it were to be considered in isolation, with nothing else impinging. But in actual environmental experience, our judgements of attributes are constantly affected by the entire milieu, and the connectivities such observations suggest reveal this multiform complexity. Semantic response is generally a consequence of reductive categorization, environmental response or synthesizing holism.

In *The Jargon of the Professions*, Kenneth Hudson suggests that the authors "should be locked up without food or water until they can produce an acceptable translation." In *Secret Language*, Barry J. Blake adds, "I think the passage simply means that in experiencing the environment we need to look at it as a whole rather than at particular properties, though I am at a loss to decode the first sentence."

UMPIRES AND SCORERS

DATE	5 March	12 March	19 March	26 March
MEETING	Partners	War Stories	Ordinary	Business
SERGEANT	Lew Botha	Colin Burke	Shelley Finch	Jerome Eckles
4 WAY TEST/ OBJECT	Anthony Galloway	John Stephenson	Ian Pursch	Vanessa Rousseau
GRACE & TOAST	Paul Spiller	Shân Biesman-Simons	Geraldine Nicol	Richard House
ATTENDANCE	Chris Beech	Andy Ismay	Bill Holland	Pippa McLeod
FELLOWSHIP	Rochelle Malherbe	Brian Pickup	Johnny Hurwitz	Nora See
MINUTES	Jamie Hart	Jana Forrester	Barbara Hurwitz	Pieter van Aswegen
COMMENT	Michael Walwyn	Garnet Carr	Bill Meyer	Corinne Hudson
THANK SPEAKER	Wendy Goddard		Andrew Peile	
INTRO SPEAKER	Glynis Menné		Terry Lancaster	

**Invited
GUEST SPEAKERS**

5 Mar Ian Domisse – *Eco Bricks*

If you cannot do your job on the day, please find someone who can do it instead of you, then contact the Sergeant on the day to update the roster. Please don't leave this until the Monday afternoon – let the Sergeant know in advance if you have not been able to arrange a swap. If you are going to be away for particular future meetings let Peter Ennis know.

Passive Aggressive Librarians



Rotary Club of Newlands Office Bearers

Graham Finlayson	President	graham@gfinarch.co.za
Bill Meyer	Secretary	meypost@iafrica.com
Peter Ennis	Treasurer	treasurer@newlands.org.za
Corinne Hudson	Community Service	corinne.hudson@gmail.com
Paul Spiller	Club Service	dr.paul.spiller@gmail.com
Jenny Ibbotson	International & Vocational Service	jennyi@mweb.co.za
Regine le Roux	Public Relations	rotary@reputationmatters.co.za
Vanessa Rousseau	Youth Service	rousseau@iafrica.com
Shân Biesman-Simons	Membership	shan@biesman.co.za
Andy Ismay	Entrepreneurship	andy@quicktint.co.za
Jenny Howard	President Elect	jenny@chezgourmet.co.za
Chris Beech	Past President	christopher.beech67@gmail.com

Books for the World

For all educational school books and novels for age from early education to High school

CONTACT: FRANCOISE NDAYIZIGIYE 0737317056

St Anthony's Catholic Church, Ndabeni Street, Langa

