CYCLING CLUB 2016/2017

It has been a good year for the cycling club. We began by competing in varsity for the first time, which took the form of a team time trial. This gave our new members a great introduction to racing and was an enjoyable trip to Edinburgh. Following varsity we had the freshers trip, which had an excellent turnout and beautiful weather. We were joined by a couple of alumni, which meant there were 25 of us on the trails and 5 out for a road ride!

Our turn out for club road rides at the start of the year was higher than it has ever been before. As usual this dwindled as the weather got worse and deadlines increased, but we did keep a strong number through the year compared to previous years. In semester 1 we competed in BUCS hillclimb and track, with our women's team at the hillclimb taking our first BUCS point for a few years.
Throughout the year we have held a variety of training and recreational trips around the country. Most of these trips are an opportunity for the mountain bikers to ride types of trails that are not available around St Andrews. Roadies often come along too, but the location of the trips is usually tailored to the mountain bikers. The highlight of these trips was our weekend trip to the Lake district in second semester. We used the weekend away to celebrate the club’s 15-year anniversary. It was a tremendous success with 16 alumni making the trip, and 12 of our current members. We had two days of excellent riding, including cycling the steepest road in the UK, and a foggy ride up Helveylln with 26 of us! On the back of this success, we plan on running a similar trip next year.

On the road bike side, BUeS competition for the second semester was less well attended. This was down to a mix of sickness, injury and deadlines. We only entered on rider into one of the four BUeS events that were running. This was much less than planned, and a little disappointing. Th mountain bike side was much more successful. We entered five males- and for the first time a female- into the downhill event. Two of our riders qualified for the finals, with Will Welford managing to secure an excellent 6th place.

One trip we still have to look forward to is our annual north trip. This occurs after exams and last for a few days. The nature of this trip allows us to explore some rural parts of Scotland it would not be possible to drive to in a day. The current plan for this trip is to visit Fort William, Kinlochleven, Aviemore and Laggan.