

'SCOTLAND'S ROUTE 66'

Pals proclaim 'I would cycle 500 miles'

Angus clubmates go the distance in three demanding days

GRAHAM BROWN

Cycling pals from Angus have beaten the challenge of a 500-mile Highland journey, tagged Scotland's Route 66, in just three gruelling days in the saddle.

Starting and finishing in Inverness, the group can now claim to be the "famous five" after riding into the record books as the first to complete a two-wheeled circuit of the North Coast 500 at the weekend, as it was launched as the nation's newest tourist trail.

Angus Bike Chain clubmates Mike

Milne, Neil Scott and Colin Nicol from Forfar, Euan Ritchie of Arbroath and David Hill from Kirriemuir completed daily legs of 202, 170 and 152 miles.

The stunning route took them to Applecross, Poolewe, Ullapool, Durness, Tongue, Thurso, John o' Groats, Wick, the Black Isle and back to Inverness.

Mike said: "It was one of those things that was floated in a chat a few months ago and we decided to go for it when the majority of us were available.

"We've all done long events but it's the biggest three days in a row on the bike for us all."

Although mainly a personal challenge for the group, Neil is heading towards a £1,000 target on his www.justgiving.com/neil-scott1 page for motor neurone charity MND Scotland.

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The five men en route to success in their challenge.

Still time to put down routes

Five bucket list challenges on two wheels or four:

1 Route 66 – the original mother road across the US, stretching 2,448 miles from Chicago to Santa Monica when it was established in 1926.

2 The Stelvio Pass – a 48-hairpin mountain stretch in the eastern Alps of northern Italy.

3 L'Alpe d'Huez – one of the more infamous twisting mountain stages of the Tour de France.

4 The Devil's Elbow – a 1:6 double hairpin on the old Cairnwell Pass near the Glenshee ski centre.

5 Rest and Be Thankful – the words inscribed on a stone at the summit of the climb out of Glen Croe on the A83 between Tarbet and Campbeltown.

