

CTC GRAMPIAN, a MEMBER OF CYCLING UK SECRETARY'S REPORT 2019/2021

This is the 32nd AGM of the club and the membership is currently 465 (463 at the 2019 AGM).

I have no doubt that you will be relieved to know that the Secretary's report will be brief this year for obvious reasons. Like all other organisations the club has had to implement the requirements of GDPR. Photographs and pictures which accompany this report will not be published on the web site unless they are GDPR compliant.

Cycle Runs

When we are safe to operate the cycle runs form the backbone of the club's activities. If you can cast your mind back to life before Covid, Moira co-ordinated the Try Cycling, Cindy co-ordinated the Morning runs, Heather co-ordinated the Slower Full Day runs and I co-ordinated the Medium Full Day runs. Alberto co-ordinated the Pub runs and John S co-ordinated the Faster Full Day runs with, in addition, the challenging task of producing a programme from all our contributions on a quarterly basis.

We have 23 registered active ride leaders to whom I am indebted. After a couple of Zoom sessions to cover our Ride Leader programme we now have 7 new ride leaders who have taken up the helm and are registered with Cycling UK.

While the runs programme has been suspended since the 17 March 2020 cycling as individuals or groups from the same household has continued apace. Nobody apparently has been deterred despite some rather challenging winter weather conditions.

Last summer with the prospect of easing of restrictions, our welfare officer, Rod A, completed the training course to become our registered Covid 19 officer. We have a risk assessment in place and provided we are track and trace compliant, groups of club members can ride together taking advantage of the organized sport exemption. As far as I am aware there have been 2 informal groups benefiting from the organized sport exemption and using WhatsApp as a booking system to ensure that they are track and trace compliant. Current guidelines in Scotland are regularly updated and published by Scottish Cycling as well as Cycling UK.

Cafes

After many years of service to the local community, and a venue that most recently hosted our 30 year anniversary, Floras closed at the end of March 2020. While cafes have partially or completely re-opened in some shape or form when permitted, many of us have learnt to enjoy our flask and fine piece outside whatever the weather.

Right to Ride

Despite the pandemic Aberdeen Cycle Forum has continued to work hard to improve the cycling experience in Aberdeen and maintain a link with the City Council.

The state of the roads in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire continues to arouse concern. There are now some industrial size potholes as one member discovered to his cost in February 2020. Despite being reported to Aberdeenshire Council, the same pothole savagely claimed another victim in October and now Cycle Law Scotland have taken up the case.

The cold winter only made the situation worse.

Long time club member Max O sent me the following before and after photos of some "No Cycling" signs adjacent to the B9025 at Deveron Bridge, Turriff. After Max contacted the community council and the angling club, the "No Cycling" bit was covered up.

Social events

Before lockdown hit we had had our usual round of winter social events. So again if you can cast your mind back to life pre-pandemic, there was the annual CTC Grampian Christmas lunch in December 2019 when we were made very welcome at the Harvester Ghillies Lair again.

The supremely flexible and equally unflexible amongst us had a yoga taster session at Peterculter in December. Heather hosted a social evening at her new flat in January, and there was a revival of the Curry Club in February.

From March 23 we were all under pressure to become Zoom experts and socialize from our armchairs. Sheila and John hosted a Zoombrain quiz in June when the clear winners were Hilary and John. I believe the prize was rumoured to be an opportunity to leave your house.

Holidays

I have not received any reports from club members of cycling holidays this year, but getting away on 2 wheels in a Covid safe way has been possible. The 2 Secretaries went on a short cycle camping trip from Aberdeen to Inverness in September and as is so typical of Scotland had 3 seasons in 3 days.

Members Activities and Achievements

Nearly 5 years ago when members of the club helped to clear out the barn of long time CTC Grampian member Albert B, Dave W took on the challenge of restoring a Jack Taylor tandem which, I believe, originally belonged to founder members Richard and Margaret N. John T has now offered to continue the restoration process.

Friends

Very tragically club member Bill S died just over a year ago. Despite living in Turriff Bill would meet up with rides going north and was a regular attendee at the AGM and Christmas lunch.

Looking ahead

I suspect that the subject on most members minds will be when can we resume the runs programme. We have a small sub-group of the committee keeping a watching brief on the guidance and as soon as it is allowed we will make sure all ride leaders and members are aware of the guidance before publishing a runs programme. Current government guidance (as I write this report) prohibits organised group rides from transiting through multiple local authority areas within Level 4, although this is permitted for informal exercise that does not take advantage of the organised group exemption. Whilst Scottish Government Guidance allows for a group of up to 15 adults to take part in Club activity, Scottish Cycling strongly recommends a maximum group ride size of 9 from unlimited households for Club rides. So when restrictions ease we will be guided by our Covid 19 officer to ensure we are Covid compliant.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to Alan C, John T, Dave W.

Sheila Tuckwood

(Secretary, CTC Grampian, member of Cycling UK)

7 April 2021