

CTC GRAMPIAN, a MEMBER OF CYCLING UK SECRETARY'S REPORT 2021/2022

This is the 33rd AGM of the club and the membership is currently 469 (465 at the 2021 AGM).

I have no doubt that you will be relieved to know that the Secretary's report will again 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 Photographs and pictures which accompany this report will not be published on the web site unless they are GDPR compliant.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

Now that we are deemed safe to operate the cycle runs form the backbone of the club's activities. Moira has 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 Scott 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 30 registered ride leaders, of whom 25 have been active since the resumption of the runs programme, and to whom I am indebted.

The runs programme resumed on the 1 May 2021 thanks to our Covid 19 Officer Rod A, who came up with the "Ticket to Ride" system to ensure we were Covid compliant, and led the first official club ride to Tarves on 1 May. The programme has continued uninterrupted by Covid, but challenged by the weather, notably Storm Arwen which changed the appearance of the local countryside unimaginably in some areas and made many routes temporarily impassable. High winds associated with the winter storms also resulted in a few cancellations.

Leaders have taken advantage of the usual destinations north, west and south of Aberdeen. Of special note has been the inclusion of several Point of Interest rides led by Gordon M. These have included the Denburn from Sea to Source, the Kingswells Consumption Dykes, and a ride from Motte to Motte.

Another new addition to the runs programme has been the Gravel Rides led by Alberto for those heading off the beaten track. These have included navigations of Tappie Hill and Durris Forest.

Cafes

Flora's re-opened as a café and refillery reflecting current attempts to become more environmentally friendly. When the runs programme restarted we were initially limited to enjoying our flask and fine piece outside whatever the weather and making use of the props whatever the age of the participants. Many cafes have now completely re-opened in some shape or form and welcome our support.

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 2 Secretaries wrote to their local Councillor, Martin Greig, to note that they had been refused access to the Grove Recycling centre by bicycle. The situation was rapidly resolved and cyclists are now welcome.

Social events

The resumption of social activities over the last year has been more of a challenge with the constant presence of covid. In June Alberto led a weekend trip to Ballater with options for both tarmac and gravel routes but a chance for us all to meet up in the evening for an indian meal.

There was the annual CTC Grampian Christmas lunch in December 2021 when 21 of us were made very welcome at the Cocket Hat.

John C organized a very successful First Aid refresher course with trainer Brian Harrison, at the Mannofield Church in March.

Holidays

I have not received any reports from club members of cycling holidays abroad this year, but getting away on 2 wheels in a Covid safe way has been possible in the UK. There have been trips to Englandshire, Fife, Inverness, Dornoch, and the west coast and LEJOG to name but a few.

Members Activities and Achievements

With the enthusiasm and skill of new committee member Adrian R our club website has been rebuilt and is now more accessible by mobile phone as so many of us have now ventured into smart phone technology.

Friends

After a difficult period of declining health exacerbated by the restrictions associated with the pandemic, founder member Sandy C died in October 2021. Sandy will be remembered for so many contributions to the club, as a committee member and Morning Rides programme co-ordinator, with his encyclopaedic knowledge of the local area. A commemorative ride for Sandy is planned for Sunday 15 May when friends are encouraged to join the Morning Ride or meet at Flora's for a coffee and a chat and an opportunity to remember Sandy. More details to follow via the Google Group.

In November long time club member Liz L, moved from Aberdeen to be closer to her family. Liz has always been passionate about Right to Ride and fund raising initiatives and here is seen in 2009 when CTC Grampian and ACF organised a stall at ASDA to coincide with the arrival of the ASDA chief executive on his LEJOG ride raising money for the CTC Bike Clubs Initiative. The ride raised over £1 million.

Looking ahead

The runs programme continues, with the start of the pub runs on a fortnightly basis on a Wednesday evening, and more opportunities for those wishing to take advantage of off-road terrain, in addition to the 5 regular rides which take place on a weekly basis.

Sheila Tuckwood

(Secretary, CTC Grampian, member of Cycling UK)

6 April 2022