

CTC GRAMPIAN, a MEMBER OF CYCLING UK SECRETARY'S REPORT 2022/2023

This is the 34th AGM of the club and the membership is currently 478 (469 at the 2022 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. Photographs and pictures which accompany this report will not be published on the web site unless they are GDPR compliant.

Cycle Runs

As ever the cycle runs form the backbone of the club's activities and we have had a complete year of uninterrupted club runs. 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. Andy G co-ordinated the Faster Full Day runs and Alberto co-ordinated the Pub runs and John S had the challenging task of producing a programme from all our contributions on a quarterly basis.

We have 34 registered ride leaders, of whom 27 have been active this year, and to whom I am indebted. In September another 5 members completed our in-house Ride Leaders training course and were registered as Volunteers with Cycling UK.

The runs programme has continued uninterrupted by Covid, but challenged by the weather this winter when a protracted cold spell was associated with a serious accumulation of ice.

Leaders have taken advantage of the usual destinations north, west and south of Aberdeen. There have been rides to Knockburn Loch when the leader was in his element with the ladies, and Cruden Bay.

Of special note was the commemorative ride for founder member Sandy Cormack who died in October 2021. Members joined the Morning Ride on Sunday 15 May or met at Flora's for a coffee and a chat and an opportunity to remember Sandy. It was also a fitting occasion to present a re-framed copy of the photograph from the last anniversary ride which met at Flora's in March 2014 and to show members a refurbished lathe which belonged to Sandy.

Cafes

Cafes welcome our support and the Community café 48 at Pitmedden has proved very popular.

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.

An electric bike hire scheme launched in Aberdeen at the beginning of November. Hundreds of e-bikes are available around the city on a pay-as-you-go basis, although at times they appear to be victims of the weather.

There has long been a wish for a safe cycle and walkway between Oldmeldrum and Inverurie. Detailed designs are in progress for the Meldrum Meg Way but there are landowner issues.

The relatively new Kintore to Blackburn Sustrans route is not fit for purpose being unrideable except on an MTB with suspension. Aberdeenshire County Council have

advised that this is an interim route, and that a detailed design for a paved route which will follow the A96 is in progress.

Social events

The resumption of social activities over the last year has been more of a challenge with the constant presence of covid. There was the annual CTC Grampian Christmas lunch in December 2022 when 29 of us were made very welcome at the Cocket Hat.

Holidays

I have only received 1 report from a club member of a cycling holiday abroad this year, but getting away on 2 wheels has been possible in the UK. There have been trips to Englandshire, Wales, the Black Isle, the NC500 and LEJOG to name but a few.

Mark H (previously long time and very committed Right To Ride Officer for Aberdeenshire South) cycled from Calais to Geneva and then completed the Raid Alpine from Thonon-le-Bain to Nice with some formidable climbs including the Col Du Galibier and the Col de L'Iseran.

Members Activities and Achievements

Rod A, our Welfare Officer, and John B completed the on-line CUK Safeguarding Course.

Several club members including Willie M, Aamir Q and Imogen Bowman took up the opportunity to set up a Cycling Without Age Trishaw in Aberdeen. Training was provided on a rather unwieldy but fortunately battery assisted beast and following an assessment in June, Willie M became an approved trishaw pilot. The project now has a Captain, pilot/trainer assessor and five pilots. The Aberdeen trishaw, named "Hardley Davidson" was delivered in June. The official launch of the project took place in August and the trishaw is now available to take people out for a gentle scoot.

Some hardy club members braved the atrocious weather at the beginning of September for the first stage of the Tour of Britain, with the Grand Depart from Aberdeen, from where the race headed along the Don to Inverurie and on to finish of day 1 at Glenshee. The previous day there was an afternoon of racing in excellent weather in the city centre.

Several club members ably led by Andy G took part in the promotion of Aberdeenshire Ascents in September. The Aberdeenshire Ascents is a new initiative which brings together 10 of the most challenging cycling routes in the region, including the Gairnshiel, the Lecht and the Suie.

Club member Liam B researched and purchased a Carla E-Cargo bike trailer for carrying loads up to 200kg. Liam has made the trailer available to borrow to transport heavier loads and has also offered to shift the load for you.

Looking ahead

The runs programme continues with the 5 regular rides which take place on a weekly basis, and to encourage the resumption of our social programme, the two Secretaries invite all members, family and friends to their home on Saturday 15 April for an informal Spring social evening.

Sheila Tuckwood

(Secretary, CTC Grampian, member of Cycling UK)

5 April 2023