

## **CTC GRAMPIAN, a MEMBER OF CYCLING UK SECRETARY'S REPORT 2023/2024**

This is the 35th AGM of the club. The membership is currently unavailable after a CUK website upgrade (478 at the 2023 AGM), and for the first time since Covid we are meeting in person.

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 Photographs and pictures which accompany this report will not be published on the web site unless they are GDPR compliant.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 co-ordinated the Faster Full Day runs and John S had the increasingly challenging task of producing a programme from all our contributions on a quarterly basis.

We have 34 registered ride leaders, of which 22 have been active this year, and to whom I am indebted. We will shortly be running another informal in-house Ride Leaders training course for a further 5 club members.

The runs programme has continued uninterrupted by Covid, but challenged by the weather this winter when ride cancellations due to wind and rain were a feature of the months before the New Year.

Leaders have taken advantage of the usual destinations north, west and south of Aberdeen. There have been rides to the Bishops Palace, Kemnay (although this is Fetternear House as the Palace is no longer standing), Aquorthies Stone Circle, Inverurie, Cluny Castle, Sauchen, Mulloch Stone Circle, Blairdryne, and over the hills to Alford.

Of special note was the social meet up ride when all the rides converged on Flora's Coffee and Refillery at Cullerlie mid-morning on Sunday 23 July.

### **Right to Ride**

The old Right to Ride network (and for those of you as long in the tooth as me, the even older Rights and Planning network) has now been replaced by the Cycle Advocacy Network and John C is our local Cycle Advocacy Network (or CAN) representative, tasked with improving conditions for cyclists.

Activities which John has been involved in include: an AECOM workshop about a signed on-road Regional Cycle network, a Council Winter Service engagement meeting, ongoing discussions about the development of the Westhill Cycle way and participation in a University event entitled Changing Gears, Inspiring Cycling Culture.

Aberdeen Cycle Forum has continued to work hard to improve the cycling experience in Aberdeen and maintain a link with the City Council. The ACF celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in September 2023 at the Aberdeen Arts Centre. Gavin Clark, the current chairman, gave an overview of the history of the organization and a summary of the activities which ACF has been involved in, with a contribution from founder, Derek Williams who was unable to be present. Louise Napier and I, who were both present at the early meetings, were invited to cut the enormous cake.

### **Social events**

After a long break due to Covid 23 members attended a Spring social at the Tuckwoods home in April which provided an opportunity to meet other members of the club who we may not have had a chance to meet up with socially for some time and an excuse for John to raid the only bookshop in town for the ultimate quiz book.

There was the annual CTC Grampian Christmas lunch in December 2023 when 29 of us were made very welcome at the Cocket Hat, although only those few with webbed feet made it out on the pre-lunch ride. I think we are all agreed that the standard of catering fell well short of the mark, and we are actively seeking a member who would like to organize the 2024 Christmas lunch at an alternative venue.

Members were encouraged to attend a talk by Kate Rawles, at the beginning of March, entitled The Life Cycle, about a solo trip from the Mexican Border along the spine of the Andes to Tierra del Fuego, to raise awareness of climate change, and more recently Lee Craigie gave a talk about her mountain biking career and the projects she has been involved in since giving up competitive cycling, including the Resolution Race when 4 women on 2 cargo bikes cycled from Edinburgh to Copenhagen in December, to demonstrate how far collective resolve, collaboration and kindness can take us in the race to save our planet.

### **Members Activities and Achievements**

Several club members including Willie M, Aamir Q and Imogen B took up the opportunity to set up a Cycling Without Age Trishaw in Aberdeen. The group was formed in the summer of 2022 and many of its original members were from CTC. They had a very successful first full year in 2023 with the original Trishaw and started 2024 with a newly bought second Trishaw and a wheelchair transporter.

So they are now able to deliver the free service to many more clients throughout the city. They are only able to deliver this service because of the time and commitment the volunteers put into it.

The project would welcome new volunteers if you have an enthusiasm for cycling and would like to share the experience of being out and about on a bike with those who would not otherwise get the opportunity.

As part of Climate Week North East the local group of Cycling Without Age Scotland organised an Open Day at the Beach Boulevard from 12-4pm on Sunday 17th March.

### **Acknowledgements**

Thank you to the ACF, Chris, Willie M, Andrew M, and Tom S for contributions to this report.

**Sheila Tuckwood**

**(Secretary, CTC Grampian, member of Cycling UK)**

**10 April 2024**