

CTC GRAMPIAN, a MEMBER OF CYCLING UK SECRETARY'S REPORT 2024/2025

This is the 36th AGM of the club. The membership is 470 (478 at the 2023 AGM, no figure available for the 2024 AGM).

I have no doubt that you will be relieved to know that the Secretary's report will again be brief this year. Photographs and pictures which accompany this report will not be published on the web site unless they are GDPR compliant.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. Chris has co-ordinated the Faster Full Day runs and the Pub runs made a re-appearance in July and August thanks to the enthusiasm of Sam. John S had the increasingly challenging task of producing a programme from all our contributions on a quarterly basis.

We have 33 registered ride leaders (34 in 2023), of which 20 (22 in 2023) have been active this year, and to whom I am indebted. We had an informal in-house Ride Leaders training course in May 2024 for a further 3 club members.

The runs programme has continued, challenged by the weather this winter when ride cancellations due to ice, snow, wind and rain were a feature of the months after the New Year. The runs programme has also been challenged by the reduction in the number of active runs leaders. Going forward, from the second quarter of this year, there will only be 16 active leaders (a further reduction of 20%).

Leaders have taken advantage of the usual destinations north, west and south of Aberdeen. There have been rides to Suie Hill in August and closer to home also in August, Dunecht Estate to see the filming of the Netflix adaptation of Guillermo del Toro's *Frankenstein*. There was a special car assisted ride from Inverurie to Dufftown via Rhynie.

Cafes

Despite an ageing membership the advent of e-bikes providing a little assistance for some, has led to increasing numbers of riders on our Morning Runs. So it is becoming more of a challenge to find cafes which can accommodate a larger number of cyclists. There is now a new café at Durris, the Fern Restaurant, and an upgrade with increased capacity for the café has been completed at Parkhill Garden Centre.

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 has been local Cycle Advocacy Network (or CAN) representative, tasked with improving conditions for cyclists.

Activities which John has reported on include: proposals for the development of the Westhill Cycle path, and the re-opening of the Peterculter section of the Deeside Line and replacement of the chicanes with bollards which are easier for cyclists to navigate. However crossing Milltimber Brae is still hazardous for inexperienced cyclists.

Aberdeen Cycle Forum with Gavin Clark at the helm, has continued to work hard to improve the cycling experience in Aberdeen and maintain a link with the City Council.

Social events

There was the annual CTC Grampian Christmas lunch in December 2024 when 29 of us were made very welcome at the Ghillies Lair Harvester, although only 4 of us braved the ice and cold on the pre-lunch ride. I think we are all agreed that the standard of catering was a significant improvement on the Cocket Hat the previous year.

Then there are always the ad hoc social events at the end of the day on the bikes.

Members Activities and Achievements

The club newsletter made a welcome re-appearance thanks to the enthusiasm of Andrea C, with a new title "From the Saddle" and publications have featured articles on members runs and cycling trips, the Top 10 reasons for cycling and information about the ACF, and what better way to finish than with the Game of Scones.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to Andrea C and Muriel T for contributions to this report.

Sheila Tuckwood

(Secretary, CTC Grampian, member of Cycling UK)

9 April 2025