



# CYCLE TALK

Produced by CTC Scotland

a part of the UK's national  
cyclists' organisation

No 48 Apr/May 2007

## Barriers – Trunk Roads and Level Crossings

We all know them, don't we - those barriers to safe and appealing progress? Enter the National Access Forum (NAF), which is taking up the cudgels supporting the call for sensible policies in regard to both. Of the many issues it addresses, these are two of the most practical ones in relation to cycling.

Network Rail (NR), in response to safety concerns, closed all the "private" level crossings, limiting their use to authorised users. Due mainly to the lead taken by NAF in negotiating with NR, the situation now is:

- they selected 20 crossings for study for a year; since there resulted no major problems, they are all now open to the public;
- they are studying the other 599 over their standard three year cycle and will open as many as possible, having consulted Access Officers as to how important they are in regard to Outdoor Access, and having also consulted the authorised users and train operators;
- NR will only fund minor works themselves e.g. signing amendments - so it will require other sources to fund converting gates and the like.

In respect of trunk roads, there are two issues. One is, in their schemes, making provision for Non-Motorised User (NMU) facilities that are promotable as cycle routes and Core Paths and meshing these into the surrounding NMU infrastructure. The other is addressing the many NMU crossings and NMU community links that are required throughout trunk road corridors. NAF is writing to Transport Scotland, which is Trunk Roads' overlord, to urge it to enable Trunk Roads to provide safe and sensible solutions to both these issues.

John Taylor

## Triennial Vets Ride, Stirling, 10 June 2007

Welcome to the CTC Scotland Triennial Vets ride!

This 100-mile ride for the over-50s starts at 8.45am, from the Municipal Buildings. (That's the old Municipal Buildings in Corn Exchange Rd off Dumbarton Rd, not the current Council Offices in Viewforth!)

The essence of our ride is informality, good company, good food and superb scenery. The route is undulating at first, mainly pastoral, until Loch Katrine (short sharp hills, and some climbs over bluffs), then a climb from the loch followed by long descent to Kinlochard. After Aberfoyle it's undulating again.

The rides are not led but you get a route sheet (description) and map(s). Please detach and return booking form below.

### Some notes

- Finish at Best Western Terraces Hotel, Melville Terr Stirling (about half mile from start)
- Elevenses (tea, coffee, home bake) at Thornhill Community Hall, courtesy of Thornhill community.
- Lunch - no lunch stop organised, but there are three places where lunch can be obtained, one at Trossachs Pier (nearly halfway), two at Brig o' Turk - the Tearooms (on R, centre of village) and The Byre (further along, on L) - NB no more food available (after Trossachs Pier) until Kinlochard.
- Roadside snack shortly after Braeval (beyond Aberfoyle), in car park on L, courtesy of Brian and Barbara Bolt and family.
- Evening meal served from 6.30pm (room open from 5.45). Most riders return 6 - 6.30, don't worry if you are later. The Hotel has small car park to rear, where bikes can be left at your own risk. Please don't leave your car there during day - there are plenty of spaces nearby.
- Bridge of Allan : watch raised road surface at 2nd mini rbt. There follows a farm road over Carse of Lecropt - surfaced, but narrow, with frayed edges - beware!
- Before or after elevenses, do Thornhill circuit before returning to Thornhill and proceeding towards Callander.
- After Trossachs Pier beware of pedestrians for a couple of miles - ring bell!
- Accommodation: Stirling Youth Hostel (01786) 473442 ; Willy Wallace Backpacker's, 01786 446773; TIC to book B&B etc., 01786 475019.

Please note you must be responsible for the security of your bike at all times.

Entry fee includes morning coffee.

**Under-50s are welcome to enter for same fee, and can order a meal too. The only difference is that no certificate is awarded.**

### Booking Forms

Both the event entry and the booking form for the Scottish event are to be sent to CTC Scotland (not Guildford). It will cut down on administration if you can complete both parts at the same time and send one cheque. Note however that event entries are supposed to be in by 30th April, but we can take meal bookings until 21st May. If you can book both together and book both early it's a great help to us! The form can be downloaded from our website ([www.ctcscotland.org.uk](http://www.ctcscotland.org.uk) under Events) or obtained from Peter Hawkins (118/1 Stenhouse Cresc., Edinburgh, EH11 3HU) – please send him an SAE if you are writing.

CTC Scotland

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Web Sites

CTC Scotland: [www.ctcscotland.org.uk](http://www.ctcscotland.org.uk)  
Cycling Scotland: [www.cyclingscotland.org](http://www.cyclingscotland.org)

## WHO'S WHO NOW?

We are very pleased to introduce to you the new personnel of CTC Scotland (CTCS) Committee as a result of its AGM in January.

Let's start with Councillor. You may realise that there were no candidates for this post in the autumn election. However, at CTCS AGM, Peter Hayman, who has long been well-known for his campaigning and organising activities in Glasgow and beyond, offered his services. He cannot be deemed Councillor yet, since (as you will see from your Cycle) there is to be a re-run of the election, which means that other candidates can still come forward (and there should be competition!). In the meantime, Peter is "Acting Councillor" but cannot vote at Council meetings. He is very keen to see CTC Scotland increase its influence in all spheres and would welcome any suggestions or points that he can take to National Office.

We were especially pleased to welcome back Mike Harrison as Secretary. He inspires us all by his non-acceptance of disability, though chair-bound following his severe injury due to falling off his bike. Incidentally, he was regally welcomed back to the Lothians cycling fraternity recently by the DA, by their holding of a Ceilidh to raise a support fund for him.

George DiPonio continues as Treasurer, and John Taylor as (executive) Chair. Peter Hayman is Vice-Chair; he chairs the meetings since that relieves the Committee of the bugbear of JT's hearing deficiency!

We were sorry that Falkirk and Highland DAs did not return a representative. However, their Secretaries have been designated "non-attending" members and so receive all the papers. CTC Scotland wants to be a focus for all CTC members in Scotland. The DA reps (or secretaries) are the first way to get matters raised with the committee and also to find out what the CTCS is trying to do. Cycle campaigning issues can now also be channelled to CTCS through the two new Right to Ride reps who are joining the committee.

organisation	post	fname	sname	town	phone	email
Galloway Sec'n	Chair / RtR Off-Road	John	Taylor	Castle Douglas	01556 670395	johnwtaylor-at-care4free.net
GoBike	Vice Chair	Peter	Hayman	Glasgow	0141 552 4336	peterhayman-at-care4free.net
Lothians DA	Secretary	Mike	Harrison	Edinburgh	0131 554 7773	Secretary-at-CTCSScotland.org.uk
Spokes	Treasurer	George	Di Ponio	Edinburgh	0131 669 6785	george.diponio-at-btinternet.com
Fife DA		George	Berwick	Wormit	01382 330217	varneyguard-loves-at-yahoo.co.uk
Highlands DA		Steve	Carroll	Fearn	01862 871136	biker_carroll-at-hotmail.com
Co-optee		Brian	Curtis	Edinburgh	0131 669 5918	brianpcurtis-at-aol.com
Glasgow DA		William	Dickson	GLASGOW	01698 827976	dickson82-at-msn.com
CTC RtR		Sam	Fleming			sam-at-ravenfamily.org
Tayside DA		Ron	Harrow	Angus	01575 574082	ronharrow-at-onetel.com
Lothians DA	RtR On-Road	Peter	Hawkins	Edinburgh	0131 443 6712	peterhawk-at-care4free.net
CTC RtR		Mark	James	DUNBAR	01368 864717	markjames2005-at-tiscali.co.uk
Grampian DA		John	Tuckwood		01467 620146	william-at-tuckwood5985.fsnet.co.uk
Grampian DA		Gerard	Vlaar	ABERDEEN		gerardvlaar-at-yahoo.com
Angus CC		Tom	Ward	FORFAR	01307 464536	tommaryward-at-aol.com

*replace '-at-' with '@' for use!!*

## DATES for your DIARY

28 April - 7 May	Scottish Outdoor Access Festival	everywhere!
4-7 May	KM Rally	Barnsoul, Shawhead, Dumfries
10 June	Tri-Vets	Stirling
16-24 June	B I K E W E E K	
16 Sept	Pedal for Scotland	

As you know the Scottish Outdoor Access Festival 28 April - 7 May 2007 will celebrate enjoyment of the outdoors and encourage the public to enjoy the outdoors responsibly.

Information is at [www.outdooraccess-scotland.com/festival/](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com/festival/) and you can register events you organise on-line.

### KM167

To say again some of what was in a previous edition - Archie has installed a proper toilet in the further camping field at Barnsoul; we will probably have an introductory slideshow (went down well at Birthday Rides), a social type quiz, and a social with food, drink and possible entertainment spots. The booking form, as usual, is downloadable from the website ([www.ctcscotland.org.uk](http://www.ctcscotland.org.uk) under Events>KM) or obtainable from Peter Hawkins (0131 443 6712). Judging by the reaction to D&G countryside at Birthday Rides, don't be surprised if we are stowed out this time especially as there are no Birthday Rides this year.