



working for cycling

CYCLETALK

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CTC Scotland Future Conference

Peter Hayman, Councillor

The CTC Scotland committee has been grappling for some time with the conundrum of how to progress the work and influence of CTC in Scotland, as the senior cyclist representative organisation, while operating with limited voluntary help and no dedicated income. Historically, financial recourses from National Office were diverted into the Scottish Cycle Development Project, who took on a lot of the roles of CTCS. The SCDP were then superseded by Scottish Executive funded 'Cycling Scotland' which has operated as a government policy delivery body, leaving CTCS a bit out in the cold. Now CTCS has to redefine how it can operate meaningfully as the country's membership body for cyclists and best develop its representational and advocacy functions.

This year CTCS has formally included the good work of the Right to Ride network into the committee with two seats alongside the traditional DA and associate body representation. With cycling becoming ever more appreciated and accepted, CTCS business is expanding. We have to tap into our long history, knowledge and experience while continuing the crucial fight of Rtr to allow cycling to flourish.

The CTC's new **Strategic Vision 2007-12** is looking to spread the CTC operations throughout the UK and to take on a whole new range of cycle related roles. The £20 million Lottery money awarded recently for 'Active Travel' has allowed this process to start with CTC's share being used to put in 13 new cycle development officers around England. Now CTC Scotland has its bid in for Lottery 'Primetime' funding. The idea is to get older people (over 50) in Scotland more active. The money being sought would allow CTC to employ two coordinators locally who would greatly extend the scope of and participation in what CTC already does on the ground. The awards are being divided up into the six BBC Scotland TV Regions with the winners decided by a viewers' vote. We have put in bids for three Regions and will know if we have been shortlisted for the next stage by the time Cycletalk comes out.

Winning this funding would change the face of CTC in Scotland, not only in diversification and social inclusion but with an increased capacity to extend other CTC activities. Whatever the outcome of the 'Primetime' Lottery bids, CTCS and CTC National Office are keen to see the CTC in Scotland develop along the lines of the Strategic Vision.

CTC Scotland

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Web Sites

CTC Scotland: www.ctcscotland.org.uk
Cycling Scotland: www.cyclingscotland.org

STIRLING — 24th NOVEMBER

The Future of CTC in Scotland

CTC Director *Kevin Mayne* and Cycling Development Manager *Rob Fuller* will be there as well as Campaigns and Policy Manager *Roger Geffen* who has been overseeing the series of Right to Ride seminars.

The **whole membership in Scotland** is being invited come to the meeting and take advantage of all this National Office involvement, along with the CTCS committee and DA reps.

This will be a grand opportunity for members, who perhaps don't want to get involved in day to day business of CTCS, to come along and meet some of the names they read about, hear what is being put forward and have their say in shaping the future of CTC in Scotland.

Mike Harrison, Secretary, says:

That's the appeal from the Councillor, now as Secretary I have to deal with the real-time problem of getting more information to you. This newsletter has to go to the printer on Sept 6th and will reach you on Sept 25th. By that time we will have definite times and details, and a way for you to register, but there will be no mailing to all Scottish members before the event. This is what I ask you to do if you want information when ready:

If you have internet access: Send an email with Subject line "November Gathering" to Secretary@CTCScotland.org.uk and give your name, phone number and email address.

If you don't have email access: Phone me on 0131 554 7773 with your name, phone number and address. Remember my disability includes limited finger dexterity, so whether talking to me or to my voicemail system, please speak slowly and clearly!

In addition, I will send out the information using our mailing list (but see the note below).

email list

There are now about 440 names on the list, but the last message went out only to about 380. The gap is those who have changed their address, and also the cases where one system will not accept the mail from another for whatever reason.

If you signed up, you should have had a note within the last fortnight saying that this issue would be on its way. If you didn't get that, can you please send me an email (to Secretary@CTCScotland.org.uk with subject "Email Notices") and I will check again and update where necessary.

CTC Grampian invitation

Try Cycling in Aberdeen. Every Sunday, same time, same place: Duthie Park by the Pond at 10.00 am.

The weather will not stop us. We go on, right through the winter. Somebody will be there by the Pond, to go on a short ride with you, to share a coffee in the numerous bars that are open on wintry mornings.

Everybody, even experienced riders, welcome.

Peter Hayman writes:

Way Forward Group

CTC Council is guided by the work of the two main groups. The Management Group oversees the operation of CTC and the running of the National Office at Guildford. The Way Forward Group looks at the purposes and ambitions of CTC and considers the policies and actions needed to achieve these. As the Councillor of Scotland, now re-elected (unopposed) for the next three years, I have been invited on to the Way Forward Group. My first meeting will be on 8th September (between Cycletalk deadline and publication). The agenda includes the business plans, governance and monitoring of the new Strategic Vision, agreed at the AGM, the situation between the CTC membership organisation and the CTC Charitable Trust, as well as discipline, co-options, marketing and funded projects. An item on the voluntary network, with the new local groups 'Guide' (toolkit), 'Policy Handbook' and Conferences (see separate article) will shape how the CTC evolves in Scotland. As well as reporting back I hope members will feed in their own thoughts about how they want to see their Club develop.

Editor's note: This is a 'first' for Scotland, since the present structure of governance was adopted the Scottish Councillors [Brian, Pat and Mike] have all been attached to the Management Group.

First ScotRail

CTC has again been invited to the 3rd First ScotRail Cycle Forum on the 29th October 2007. These are a series of multi stakeholder discussion meetings set up by First ScotRail to consider all aspects of cycle interaction with the railways in Scotland. Dave Holladay also attends as the Public Transport Campaigns & Policy officer for CTC National Office. We have looked at cycle access to stations as well as lighting, storage and security. We will continue to see if we can get bike carriage on buses used as links during engineering works. Dave has submitted details for including bike channels on all stairways to help wheel bikes up and down. I have put in a proposal for bike straps to use Velcro rather than plastic luggage clips.

First ScotRail has indicated that it wants to drop its free bike rescue service, due to lack of call-outs, and use the money for other cycle initiatives. Any comments about this or other items for the agenda would be welcomed by Dave or me.

A LAST CHANCE AND A FINAL APPEAL!

John Taylor

Yes, it really is crunch time in regard to Core Path Plans. I will not explain them all over again, but by this time, almost *all* of the Councils will have published their drafts for public consultation.

SO.....this is my last and urgent appeal for you all to scrutinise your Councils' plans to make sure that there is enough in them for cycling – for each community, from a couple of miles or so beginners' routes to longer ones, perhaps linking up between community networks. And some of these *should* be new routes.

Many Councils are holding public meetings about them, you can ask to view them at Council offices, or view them on your Council websites. Whatever way you choose, *do* check them out!

Bute Cycling

Mike Harrison has received a letter saying:

I have been a CTC member for several years now. I and an Associate are undertaking a review for the Bute Conservation Trust to strengthen a number of project proposals they are putting forward to the Heritage Lottery Fund. They are seeking support to enhance access and services that different groups of visitors would find valuable. A cycle route is one of the possible projects.

We are undertaking research of potential tourists to Bute and we would like to include cyclists in this group. Bute is very well suited to cycling - it is more strenuous than Millport but not quite as arduous as Arran. The roads are very quiet and the scenery spectacular.

We are hoping to run a focus group or two with a cross section of potential cycling visitors. Do you have any advice about how we might best do this? Do the CTC groups meet and if so, we could run a short session.

*Best wishes
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It occurred to Mike that now evening cycling is just about over for the year some local groups may be interested in Donal's invitation. Please contact him.

We'll take the shirt off your back.....

Brian Curtis writes:

Since 1999 I have led cycle tours to the Cape area of South Africa and in that time I have noticed that cycling there is more the domain of white riders. This is a shame because we all know how liberating a bike can be and this is especially so if you live in a "township" and need to travel to work, college or school. On the tours that I have led I have arranged for an auction to support the Bicycle Empowerment Network known as BEN. See their website at www://benbikes.org.za They exist to promote cycle use and provide bikes and workshops to enable new riders to own and maintain a bike. One of the backers is Phil Liggett, former president of ctc. We all know what a difference the correct clothing can make to cycling and I would like to appeal to you now to send me at least ONE cycling shirt or piece of cycling clothing. I will see personally to making sure that these donations will get to BEN via my friend Elaine Crawford who is the ctc's Overseas Correspondent in Cape Town and I shall be seeing in February when I visit again with my 2008 tour. Thanks in anticipation. Brian Curtis 23 Milton Crescent Edinburgh EH15 3PF. 0131 669 5918 brianpcurtis@aol.com

Triennial Vets Ride, Stirling, 10 June 2007

My old camera had a setting, 'cloudy-bright', which exactly describes the weather conditions on the day. The temperature was just perfect for cycling. Add to that the near-total absence of wind, very unusual for Scotland, which made ideal conditions for a long day's ride.

About 50 riders participated, a little down on the previous event. This time though we managed to organise a morning coffee stop. Last time, I thought Alan had arranged it and he thought I had, which caused some angry mutterings in the ranks.

The two oldest riders, both 76, had some argy-bargy - well, friendly banter perhaps - over which of them was really the oldest. Or maybe over which of them had done the ride most often.

There were no incidents, which might be boring for readers, but was a mighty relief for the organisers. (I'm reminded of Albert and the Lion - "there were no wrecks, and nobody drowned - fact nothin' to laugh at at all!").

[The Vets will understand this reference but the rest of you will be too young]

About 30 of us joined in for the evening meal at The Terraces Hotel in Stirling. Nearly all riders heaped fulsome praise on the organisers and said the ride had been most enjoyable. Modesty, however, prevented me from taking credit for the weather.

Peter Hawkins