



CYCLETALK

Produced by CTC Scotland

a part of the UK's national
cyclists' organisation

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CTC Strategic Vision 2007-2012

CTC Scotland - CTC Charitable Trust

Rob Fuller CTC Cycling Development Manager, reported to the CTC Way Forward committee about the progress being made putting the 13 new Cycle Champions, and their two Area Managers, in place in England. The good news was the number of cycling activities bodies who wanted to join CTC as partners and often to be just branded as a CTC operation. The CTC standing and reputation is considered a boost to their work. The CTC has also been welcomed as a bonding agent in bringing together many cycling groups, who often don't know of each others existence, and raising the whole profile of cycling in an area.

This is just the sort of news we want to hear as we move to set up a CTC Trust organisation in Scotland to promote and manage cycle delivery. It is also echoed by Scottish CTC members, working independently on cycle training, who say that a CTC presence in cycle tuition and other delivery work would be welcomed with open arms.

The CTC democratic process continues. Despite a disappointing lack of representation from the member groups at the last CTC Scotland meeting, the committee unanimously backed the development sub-group's proposals for extending CTC Charitable Trust activities in Scotland. With the key to a successful operation depending on the calibre of people we can get to be involved, there were some questions about the basis for contacting others, and the programme of actions was amended slightly.

Kevin Mayne, Director of CTC, put proposals to the Way Forward meeting to underwrite a modest seed funding for the first stage of setting up a CTC establishment in Scotland. This was agreed, and will go to the full National Council for ratification. He is also organising a discussion between the CTCS sub-group, senior CTC staff and a number of individuals who have been identified as bringing valuable experience to the table, to see how our plans might be put into practice.

Once again, by the time the next Cycletalk comes out, we expect to have moved on another big step. Anyone who would like more information or who knows of someone who they think could add significantly to the process, please get in touch.



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR 2007 - PETER HAWKINS

It's pretty certain that the 'Cycle' this is inserted into will have the full story and citation, so here we just say "Well done"

OUTDOOR ACCESS UPDATE

Monitoring of Access Issues

I cannot believe that no members have issues that they come across, either of a local or of a general nature, apart from the residual deterrent notices and locks. I trust that you are all taking up the latter with your Council Access Officers (and always getting favourable action???)

But I am sure that some of you have thoughts on wider issues at times, perhaps even arising from local ones. Some user organisations have their own reporting systems. We have considered this, but since no-one has brought to me any issues, it does not look as though our own system would be worth the effort to set up.

However, there is a universal system that we can all use. This is the pro-forma to be found on www.outdooraccess-scotland.com. It is not the easiest task to find it at present, but the site is being re-vamped to bring it up to date. It may look as though it is all to do with shaping future amendments to the Code, but don't be put off by that - if you have an issue to raise, get it recorded. Record as an individual, but if you feel it is important enough, involve me and I will raise it with the Access Forum.

There is a lot of info on this site, including the papers for the NAF, so use it well.

Reconstituting the representation of recreational bodies on the NAF

Since our current term of office is due to expire this year, this representation is now under consideration. You may recall that, at the beginning, a meeting was held for, in our case, the cycling bodies recognised as being membership ones to get together to select one representative. CTC won, so I have been doing the job. Such a meeting is expected again soon. Since CTC is the largest representative body of cyclists, and also having the greatest range of cyclists within its membership, we should get the post again. But I think that Jim Riach would like to do it; he is currently finding a membership organisation he can represent. Other cycling membership orgs are "corresponding" members.

As for myself, I am willing to stand down if another member would like to take my place. I find that, at times, my presence is important, but that many issues are of passing interest, particularly without staff backing for research. But, if a member more active, say, in camping and rough-stuff, (as well as having the interests of us all at heart) were to take my place, CTC might be seen to have more to say. I have to say also that audibility has been a problem for me, resulting in less participation than I would have liked. Demands for an induction loop have so far not produced results, although I am still hoping for better things at our meeting on May 14.

Core Path Plans

Just to say that many implementation issues continue to arise, and there does not seem to be an adequate answer yet to the conveyance of information about suitability for cycling. Again, many non-Core Paths are/will be just as important as the Core ones. So, keep your eye on those too.

CTC RIDES/EVENTS

I was taking a look at the events list on the CTC website, but I was disappointed in the small number of Scottish ones, and they were mainly Audax. Just a reminder that a Ride is where you don't expect more than five non-members to attend, and an Event is where you may get more. So, for ordinary club rides, the site just refers you to the local group in your area.

Events need to be submitted to Bob Kynaston to be listed to be covered for wider public liability. I'm quite sure that Scotland should have more representation. I have just submitted D&G's Discovery Rides, Wheely Easy Rides, and KM168.

KM168

will occur on September 19-22 this year. The site, the hall and Sheala's delicious meals have all been booked, so come and see D&G in late summer garb for a change. We will have our usual mix of enticing routes, and the same mix of social evenings, which went down well last time. Expect KM169 to revert to May next year. D&G will also hold a cycling festival the same month, but more about that later.

See you at KM168 (booking, as usual, with Peter Hawkins 0131 443 6712 peterhawk@care4free.net)

BIKES ON BUSES - HEATHER HOPPER

John Thorne of Cairngorm National Park writes:

From 12 May to end September, the 501 Heather Hopper connects Grantown-on-Spey and Ballater. Some services this year will carry cycles (should be booked direct with the bus company), run in-service on to Newtonmore, and some will be "accessible".

The route provides a great service to cyclists, who can take the bus some or all of the way, and either cycle back, come cross-country or simply visit villages and areas usually inaccessible without long hill rides.

The service connects onto the 502 Heather Hopper, Aberdeen, Ballater, Glenshee, Aberfeldy, Perth.

We are working hard as an organisation to get more cycle trailers onto buses. We need to push up passenger numbers this year, and make full use of the cycle trailer to encourage other bus companies to do the same.

The cycle trailer will take 4 cycles, but if we can show high demand, I am sure this will be increased.

Timetables are posted at www.ctcscotland.org.uk/services/HH2008.pdf

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Forum at www.ctcscotland.org.uk/forum

Ed: Sorry about the small font size in this issue - too much to get in otherwise. Magnifying glasses can be obtained from....

East Lothian Round Up

Dunbar Cycle Fest

As part of Dunbar's Transition Town strategy <http://edubuzz.org/blogs/sustainingdunbar/transport/> getting more people on bikes is a key aim. To promote cycling we are hosting a cycle fest. The Fest will take place on the final Sunday of Bike Week, June 22nd, which also happens to be Dunbar civic week.

Small towns have some advantages in knowing a significant number of people. The local Bike Shop, Belhaven Bikes, is keen to participate as is the local cycling community policeman. Anyone else heard of a Beat the Bobby Race? An Indian rickshaw will be joining the "bike" parade and the local woods will be host to a treasure hunt. Dunbar Primary School has around 20% of pupils that cycle to school, ten times the average. I am hopeful we shall have a well attended family event.

Later on in the year we are aiming to hold a carfree commute, targeting the many people who drive the short distance to the train station. I have written to National Express who own Dunbar Station to increase the cycle parking provision. The current 10 bike racks are at capacity.



More info contact Mark James markjames2005@tiscali.co.uk



East Lothian Cycle Forum

Spokes and CTC and Dunbar Cycling Group are represented on the forum that meets quarterly. One significant achievement was the installation of lanes through traffic islands. The lanes in Dunbar are 2m wide and are signed at either end of the scheme. It feels much safer being able to cycle 1m out from the kerb in the middle of the cycle lane.

We anticipate the appointment of a cycling officer in the coming months. With three years of funding the new administration are taking cycling and the environment seriously. Forum members held a stall at the farmers market and sold 75 new Spokes maps. We are keen that people who live outwith East Lothian are able to have an input into forum issues as many enjoy cycling in East Lothian. See <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/elcf>, you have to be a member to post or you can go through me.

Sponsored Rides

Because CTC members take riding distances in their stride, and because there are so many sponsored rides, we don't usually give them any special publicity, but, in view of the fact that some of our people recently were in this area, I thought that if you missed going to NI for the CTC AGM then you could still have a special weekend there in August. No opportunity to take any short cuts!

Lough Neagh is the largest lake in Ireland and Britain and the 3rd largest in Western Europe. At over 35km long and 20km wide needless to say it's quite a water feature. Lap the Lough aims to encourage as many cyclists to do 1 lap of Lough Neagh on **Sunday 24th August** (Bank Holiday Weekend in the North), and subsequently raise cash for good causes. With over 400 cyclists in our first year and over 500 in our second year the event is becoming one of the largest in the Northern Irish Cycling calendar. Log on to www.lapthelough.org for more information, route maps, registration and training plans.

For accommodation listings log on to www.loughshoretrail.com or www.discoverloughneagh.com

Lap the Lough uses Route 94 of the National Cycle Network - Loughshore Trail Cycle Route.

Sailor cycles round Scotland's Coast

As I write this, an acquaintance who is a fit dinghy sailor, but not a cyclist, is cycling round the coast of Scotland to raise money for the Renal Unit of the Yorkhill Sick Kids. So far he has over £10,000 of the £15,000 which is his target. His own young son receives regular treatment there, but they live in Angus. His effort is to help other parents in similar circumstances who can't afford the accommodation to support their children.

The Nolans prepare for some positive pedal power!

Bob Nolan recently celebrated his 50th birthday and decided he needed a new challenge and an even greater challenge than he faces every single day of his life. Bob has been deaf since birth and is now going blind. He was diagnosed with Usher Syndrome in his mid twenties and has been aware of his impending blindness ever since. Indeed, Bob considers himself really fortunate to have reached 50 and to still have a little central vision and a dash of useful hearing with the aid of powerful hearing aids. His wife, Louise, whom he met at school, has been profoundly deaf since birth, and they share "senses" - Bob can hear a little more than Louise, who provides the visual input for both of them.

The Nolans are planning to celebrate this milestone with an ambitious 1000-mile tandem bike ride from Land's End to John o' Groats this summer, leaving Lands End on 31st May. Their aim is to raise much-needed funds for Deafblind Scotland. Indeed, they would be delighted if their intrepid journey created sufficient interest and support to launch the fund for a new resource centre for deafblind people - a centre of excellence where deafblind people can be enabled to reach their full potential. This event, it is hoped, will launch Deafblind Scotland's efforts to raise £1,000,000 for a new Resource Centre.

Bob and Louise will ride every mile 'in tandem' with another pair of deaf cyclists, their childhood friends Martin and Abigail Willis from the south east of England, who will provide practical support and encouragement. It's also hoped that other riders will join the 'pack' at regular intervals along the way.

There are 5,000 deafblind adults in Scotland, 25,000 UK-wide, all of whom have difficulty in accessing the simplest of information. Deafblind Scotland exists to ensure they have meaningful contact with the world and can provide everything from football scores to bus timetables in alternative formats. Deafblind Scotland also provides one to one communication and guiding support to deafblind individuals living alone in the community.



Bob is the chairperson of this (Scottish) charity whose aim is to serve adults who have lost, or are losing, both their hearing and sight. The tandem ride will coincide with Deafblind Awareness Week in Scotland and promises to be the adventure of a lifetime for the pedalling pair who will communicate, in part, by lip-reading in a rear-view mirror attached to the handlebars.

Drena O'Malley, Deafblind Scotland's Resources Manager added: "Bob, is an inspiration to us all and a terrific role model for deafblind people who believe their active lives have prematurely come to an end."

Contributions can be made to Deafblind Scotland by visiting Bob's Justgiving page www.justgiving.com/bobstanderide

PLANNED ROUTE - SCOTLAND

Day 10; Bampton to Sanquhar - 71 miles (Monday June 9th)
Day 11; Sanquhar to Glasgow - 59 miles (Tuesday June 10th)
Day 12 Glasgow to Bridge of Orchy - 64 miles (Wednesday June 11th)
Day 13 Bridge of Orchy to Fort Augustus - 63 miles (Thursday June 12th)
Day 14; Fort Augustus to Alness - 61 miles (Friday June 13th)
Day 15 Alness to Bettyhill - 70 miles (Saturday June 14th)
Day 16 Bettyhill to John o' Groats - 51 miles (Sunday June 15th)

They would be pleased for other cyclists to chum them along the way. I have a more detailed route, or to check contact Deafblind Scotland (Drena O'Malley) on 0141 777 6111 or 07774 192 659. email: drena@deafblindscotland.org.uk