



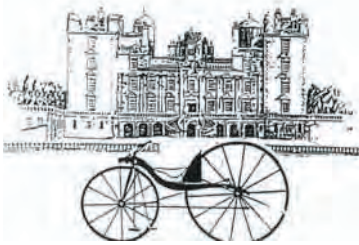
CYCLETALK

Produced by CTC Scotland

a part of the UK's national
cyclists' organisation

No 58 Apr/May 2009

KM169 – May 22-25



details & booking form now on the website

FROM THE NORTH-EAST

Safety for Cyclists

CTC Grampian, Aberdeen Cycle Forum and Deeside Thistle are concerned at the high rate of cycle casualties in the North-East. We are engaged in discussions with Nestrans, local authorities and the police.

We would welcome suggestions on feasible actions that might be taken, relevant either to urban or to rural areas.

We would like to see a focus on cyclists to be included in young driver training, and to see an advertising campaign to encourage safer driving in relation to cyclists, in order to reduce driver error.

Please contact Mark Hagger at collonach@yahoo.co.uk with your ideas.

Get out and about

ANGUS CYCLING CLUB - SUMMER CHALLENGE RIDES

Angus CC members have put together a great programme of challenging rides over the summer to suit cyclists of all abilities, from newcomers to experienced long-distance hardriders. Ranging from a gentle 50k (30 miles) to a leg-breaking hilly 300k (186 miles), we hope you will find something to inspire and challenge you. If you want, you will have plenty of opportunities for rest, food and drink along the way. These are not races, ride at your own pace, on your own or in a group, within the generous time allowance for each ride. So, whether you are an experienced club rider, tourist, commuter, or just fancy a day out on your bike, come along and enjoy riding in fantastic countryside.

25-26 April Forfar Weekend

Saturday: Scone the Flat Way 100k or Pitlochry 150k
Sunday: Glen Isla 100k or Lintrathen Loop 50k

Sunday 17 May, Forfar Howe of the Mearns 110k or Deeside Loop 200k

6-7 June Kirriemuir Weekend

Saturday A Mearns Meander 160k (100 miles) or The Snow Roads 300k
Sunday A Potter for Tea 100k or The Dunning Done In 200k

Sunday 16 August Pitlochry & Kinloch Rannoch 200k

If you fancy taking part in any of these rides, please see the AUK website <http://www.aukweb.net/cal/index.htm> or contact alexandalli@kirrie.eclipse.co.uk for more details.

David Henderson, CTC Tayside chair, on Cairn o'Mount



CTC Scotland

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CTC Scotland: www.ctcscotland.org.uk
Forum at www.ctcscotland.org.uk/forum

Deadline for copy for CycleTalk is the 1st of Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sept, Nov. Contributions from individual members as well as Rtr and Local Groups reps is welcomed [by email of words and/or pictures].

Our Councillor does not have to give up all his Saturdays to attend meetings about cycling, so he is sometimes able to give attention to another passion - supporting the Kilmarnock football team.

He writes: "I've cycled to most of the Scottish Premier League grounds following Kilmarnock FC, but never come across any suitable place to leave my bike. So when I asked the stewards, at the opening game at St Mirran's new stadium in Paisley, if there were any cycle racks, I was amazed to actually see one just inside the gate! The pictures show it with members of the Paisley Pipe Band passing by, having just entertained the capacity crowd."



CTC Scotland Committee

The next meeting is on March 28th at 13:00 in Mike's house [see address at the head of this column]. Not all member groups manage to get a rep to the meetings, but all areas can contribute through their local secretary where there is not a rep. We are also open to contributions by email to the secretary. If anyone from groups in Falkirk, Aberdeen or Highland is able to come to this [or later meetings] please contact the Secretary.

There are several 'irons in the fire', and other projects 'on the back burner', but we believe that we are moving forwards rather than backwards.

ON-LINE FORUM

The on-line forum for Scottish matters has been available for 15 months, but hardly anyone is using it! Recently spammers have been posting, and now it's being moderated, which is a nuisance to us. Please use it.

www.ctcscotland.org.uk/forum

THE ORIGINAL BICYCLE FESTIVAL MAY 9-24

In Cycle there is a half page advert and an article about this second participants' cycling coup for Dumfries (the first one being our Birthday Rides!). I will not here repeat the info in those, but will flesh out the programme so far as CTC is concerned. The full programme is on D&G Council's website www.dumgal.gov.uk.

We start on May 10 by including our Sunday ride from Dalbeattie to Drumlanrig at 09.45. Then, on May 12, starting at 0700, there is a Tom Hanley 204k audax "Oot tae Carrick".



On May 15-17 there is a "Café" event from 1800-2200. This is the place to come and meet all sorts of cyclists, and see various presentations. We will have a stand to which UK office will contribute material.

On May 16 and 19 at 13.15, and on 21 at 10.00, we are running our group's speciality, Discovery Rides, which will introduce visitors and locals alike some of the heritage around Dumfries. In the evenings of 18, 19, 20, at 18.15, we are showing riders Dumfries' own heritage.

Our group started "Wheely Easy" rides on Saturday afternoons last year with satisfying results, so we are starting them again this year on Saturday 23 at 1400.

Also on that Saturday, there will be another 204k Audax, from Longtown.

You will have noticed that the last weekend coincides with KM169. Sunday 24 will be a combined day – cyclists converging on Drumlanrig from Barnsoul and from Dumfries, to form the participants' Grand Finale. There, we are expecting some extra events laid on.

The Grand Spectators' Finale will be a Criterium (non-CTC) in Dumfries also on that Sunday, and probably a social event, so will be quite a day!

We should get plenty of local volunteers (the Council is enlisting some), but, if any of you would like to help, please let me know. We have leaders for all events, but will need supporters.

Bookings for events are being arranged by individual organisers, so if you wish to book for any of the above, get in touch with:-

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Audax May 12 | Tom Hanley 01387 261969 |
| Audax May 23 | Ian Dixon 01228 792904 |
| KM160 | Peter Hawkins 0131 443 6712 |
| The remainder | John Taylor 01556 670395 |

Mark Beaumont supported the OBF launch on Feb 18. The figure on the Macmillan replica is none other than KM himself - a look alike, of course! I knew of Tony Dymott living close by, who built his own replica and dresses in appropriate attire. Some of you may remember seeing him at BR.



Mark Beaumont gave a sell-out lecture at the Royal Botanic Gardens as part of the Danish "Dreams on Wheels" Event. Opportunity was taken to honour him with a certificate and honorary membership of CTC.

Photo © www.eamonmccgoldrick.com

Road Safety Conference 3rd Feb. 2009

Notes from Peter Hawkins

The most interesting papers from our point of view were in the last session, on engineering.

Roger Johansson from Sweden, guest speaker, told us of 'Vision Zero', the long-term programme to eliminate road casualties, which started 15 years ago. Sweden already then had one of the lowest casualty rates - 6 killed per 100,000 inhabitants, now down to 4.4, and the aim is to reduce this to 2.2 by 2020.

Methods - continue the traditional approaches to combat speeding, drunks, promote seatbelt use and safe driving, plus more radical - aim to emphasise responsibility at all levels, and the ethical issues - KSI not acceptable because road use is not a voluntary activity. Get away from blaming the victim. Designers have responsibility for getting best designs, users have responsibility for keeping to the rules. He gave a list of user 'rights' including right to info on safety problems and level of safety and the right to expect continuous improvement and refusal to accept long-term deficiencies. Car designers must build in things like seatbelt reminders and electronic stability control.

A notable chart he displayed showed falls in casualty rates for children in both categories, ages 0-6 and 7-14 - from 1956 to 2005 a fall from 120 to less than 10.

Vision Zero sought inspiration from other areas eg Public Health.

Widespread dissemination of the graph of pedestrian injury severity against speed had encouraged local authorities to introduce 30km/h speed limits. Note their default speed of 30KMs not 30 miles per hour!

By introducing a 'central' barrier they had made '2+1' roads just as safe as motorways.

Andy Duff, roads engineer Moray Council was the other speaker in this section. He said engineers should work more closely with the other two 'E's (Education and Enforcement). He outlined ways to improve the existing road network (as you'd expect) but he noted the need for a safety audit of any 'improvements' to make sure they really were - showed some nice slides of baddies, eg pedestrian guard-rail put right across a bus stop; a dropped kerb where pedestrians/cyclists meant to cross, not matched by similar on other side; a cycle lane carefully marked to end just before the cyclist would hit a lamp-post, and start again beyond it.

Innovations include use of new materials, street furniture, Twenty's Plenty, part-time 20 zones, interactive signage eg SLOW DOWN lights up if you're going too fast.

In the Q/A session I had the chance to raise the wider issues of "safety" including current thinking that because of health issues, it's safer to cycle than not to, and the contribution of cycling to health, congestion reduction and the environment, and the need not to marginalise cyclists in the same way as pedestrians are.

The responses to this from Duff and Johansson were poles apart. Duff said there were too few cyclists so it wasn't economic to provide facilities, and anyway the weather in Scotland was too bad and there were too many hills. I did manage to refute this!

Johansson said they catered for cyclists by designing streets to accommodate ALL road users, which included reducing space for cars to make room for other users, including buses, cyclists etc. Roundabouts are tightly curved to reduce speed, and have only narrow single-lane entry points. He did however say that exercise could be got in other ways, eg by going to the gym, which elicited several raspberries from the audience including the Chairman.

The rest of the conference was all about driving, particularly about reducing crashes among young/new drivers. In discussions on driving lessons and the test, I raised the issue of the advantages of experiencing road conditions and use as a cyclist before getting behind the wheel, not just to raise awareness of cyclist vulnerability but to improve awareness of road conditions more broadly.

Steve Stradling, the Chair, noted 3 myths: 1 "everyone breaks speed limits" - not true, and behaviour is improving; 2 "I really like driving fast" - only 18% in fact claim to; 3 "no public support for cameras" - see above.

Kate Wheaton, Education Adviser for RSS, was enthusiastic about cycle training for schools (and had herself achieved remarkable results while she was at the Royal High School in Edinburgh). In lunch-time conversations several participants were likewise enthusiastic about cycling and training for kids, but emphasised the approach at secondary has to be different, and much more sophisticated, than at primary level.

On the whole this conference was low-key. One speaker was truly dire. One other speaker, one panellist, and the Minister were no-shows.