



# CYCLE TALK

Produced by CTC Scotland

a part of the UK's national  
cyclists' organisation

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## Three New Spokes to support CTC progress in Scotland

We are now getting some results from CTC Scotland's efforts to start alternative cycling promotion work in Scotland. This was called for by the 'Gathering' in Stirling, a year and a half ago. There have been three seminar days in Edinburgh since then, supported by CTC staff and including senior officers from Scottish Government Agencies, looking at how this can be achieved. The problem has always come down to focus, funding and facilities, rather than ambition.

The **Climate Challenge Fund** set up by the Scottish government to promote local carbon reduction schemes sits well with cycling projects. We have put in an application. The proposed cycling activity is based on the successful workplace cycle challenge work done by CTC cycling development officer in Colchester. [see under Cycle Champions [www.ctc.org.uk](http://www.ctc.org.uk)] Because the money is meant for local community groups, the tactic has been to bid in the name of CTC Glasgow. If successful, this would bring a CTC officer to Scotland to run the scheme and then the idea could then be rolled out into other areas.

A **Consultation** has been commissioned by CTC to investigate and explore the various options for CTC work in Scotland, assess capabilities and resources and report back with proposals for action. Following on from the 'Gathering', CTC Management Committee recognized the need to fund some progress in Scotland, to match developments happening elsewhere. Money was allocated for this and some of it will be used towards an exercise to look at the mechanisms for future Scottish cycling ventures. This concentrated piece of work will be done as a joint cooperation between two CTC members, both highly experienced professionally in cycling issues. Marion Gourlay's career started with CTC. After a wide variety of work in related fields has recently set up her own Transport PR consultancy. Darren Mirfield runs a successful social enterprise specializing in cycle training delivery, particularly for school children. He has a wide business background and is well qualified in problem solving and IT. Pooling their differing skills they expect to be able to report back with their proposals for CTC Scotland later this summer.

**Bike Club**, as reported in the last edition of 'Cycle', was initially yet another exciting CTC cycle delivery arm just in England. [see [www.ctc.org.uk](http://www.ctc.org.uk)] Now supermarket chain ASDA has chosen the Bike Club to receive the money to be raised by a cycling fundraising drive in 2009. ASDA have said they want to see Bike Club move outside England, so assuming they hit their targets there will be a full time CTC professional working in Scotland, for the first time, from the end of this year.

## Gathering II

CTC Scotland – Gathering II is being planned for **Saturday 03 October**, again in Stirling. As before, *this will be open to the whole Scottish membership*, giving an opportunity to see how we are progressing, how to get the best out of any of the initiatives under way and what should be the priorities for the next stage. The day will also let us consider how CTC relates to the Cycling Action Plan for Scotland, which should have been launched by then. Right to Ride reps, in particular, will get a chance to discuss the update of Cycle by Design, which continues to be imminent, after its nine-year gestation.

Peter Hayman

for CTC Scotland development sub group

### ON-LINE FORUM

The on-line forum for Scottish matters has been available for 18 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](http://www.ctcscotland.org.uk/forum)

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**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].**

## Two important Scottish Government Consultations

**Preparing for a Changing Climate:** Second Consultation to inform Scotland's Climate Change Adaptation Framework Views are being sought on the proposals for a strategic centrally co-ordinated plan for adapting to climate change. The proposed aim is to increase the resilience of Scotland's people and the natural and economic systems on which we depend, to the impacts of climate change. Starting: Monday, April 27, 2009 Deadline: Monday, July 20, 2009

**Cycling Action Plan for Scotland (CAPS)** "By 2020, 10% of all journeys taken in Scotland will be by bike." The statement above is the overall vision for cycling in Scotland. The actions in this draft Cycling Action Plan for Scotland (CAPS) can deliver this vision and bring benefits for all. Public opinion is fundamental to good government and the actions here are a direct response to what the public told us during the consultation exercise last summer. You now have a further opportunity to comment and tell us if we have the right actions and agencies in place, working for you in delivering and promoting cycling as a realistic travel choice. This Action Plan, if endorsed by you, can achieve sustainable economic growth for the whole country and reduce harmful carbon emissions in protecting our environment. It can contribute to the Scottish Government's longer term climate change goal of 80% reduction in emissions by 2050. Starting: Friday, May 01, 2009. Deadline: Friday, July 31, 2009

*CTC Scotland has been very active in the preparation for CAPS, now you have a chance to make your contribution. Please support our work - either as individuals or local groups [or both].*

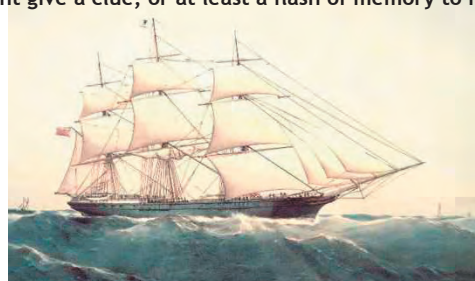
The hyperlink for these is:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Consultations/Current/Q/rowld/1#conRow1>

At the time of writing this the CAPS one is still to come, but this page should get you to it.



This picture was sent in by active campaigner Alison Colvin. Most of you should not have much difficulty identifying the location, but the picture below might give a clue, or at least a flash of memory to many.



## CHESTER - CTC AGM

Peter Hayman

The CTC AGM passed off without any major upsets this year, in the opulent setting of The Queen Hotel, Chester. There was some dry stuff, mostly about proxy voting to bring CTC in line with changes in company law, plus some scene setting, following recent changes in charity law, which could allow for a possible merging of the CTC membership organisation and the CTC charitable trust at next year's AGM.

Both arms of CTC operate virtually as one anyway and there could be a significant reduction in some risks, increased efficiencies and additional income from gift aid, if there was a suitable restructuring. A new format could actually improve the accountability to the membership, with direct overseeing of the increasing amount of work being done by the charity and technically in the hands of the trustees. Worries about any restrictions to CTC activities have been pretty much removed by the new charities' regimes.

An attempt to get the winged wheel as the only emblem for CTC was defeated. However, at our places for dinner, there were lapel badges with both the old symbol and the new wobbly bike version and the next day lots of people were sporting the winged wheel!

As well as the finance report, which showed the club getting by OK, with some quite large bequests helping out, the main report from Kevin Mayne showed how CTC is developing rapidly into a major force for cycling.

The dinner was enjoyable with Michael Gray from D&G, who sat next to us, collecting the second prize for the CTC member Group of the Year (left on the picture). Unfortunately Mark Hagger was off cycling, so couldn't pick up his Scottish Volunteer of the Year gong, but Cathy Francis, sitting on our other side, got the Ireland award and the Moss Medallion. That keeps 'the brick' in the Celtic fringe four years out of five.

The Sunday ride in the sun on the flat lands around Chester was very pleasant. The highlight was the lunch stop at the Eureka Cafe. Usual start point for all local runs. It's just a wooden shed on a four lane dual carriageway but has the unique feature of hundreds of cyclists coming and going. You could hardly believe you were in Britain!

**Editor's note: the citations are on the CTC main web site, and no doubt will be in Cycle, but possibly abbreviated. So in keeping with our policy of trying to broadcast successes, they are reprinted here, to be an example and inspiration to you.**

### Mark Hagger - Volunteer of the Year for Scotland

Mark has done great work over the years as Right-to-Ride rep for Aberdeenshire, and is one of the most active reps, always ready to raise new issues and respond to current initiatives.

He has represented cycling interests at the long-running public inquiry into the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Road (AWPR). This involves confronting the might of the Transport Scotland team, not least their formidable (by all accounts!) QC, not only to oppose the road in principle but also to argue for the creation of a cycle route in parallel with the new road if built, since cyclists would be banned from it.

He scored points by, at one critical stage, exposing the QC's ignorance: she claimed there was no precedent for cycling provision, but Mark was able to refer to the Trunk Road Cycling Initiative of 1996, which promised that cycling provision would be taken into account in all new trunk road schemes, and which is still in force. I suppose the QC could be forgiven for not knowing of it - even most of us had forgotten about it!

To make a written submission to a PLI takes a lot of work, but to actually participate, and be prepared to stand in the firing line, takes an extra dimension of guts and determination.

CTC Tayside is organising an off road event, eligible for CTC Tourist Competition.

Saturday 18 July 2009 - "Glens Off Road 2" - 30 miles

09.00 start from Dykehead (5 miles N of Kirriemuir on B955). This will be a challenging day in the hills.

Entry fee £ 3.00. You must be self sufficient. Hotel may still be closed.



### CTC Dumfries & Galloway Group - Runner-up of the CTC Volunteer Group of the Year for Scotland

CTC Dumfries and Galloway Members Group, as it is now, really goes back 22 years to the resurgence of Group leisure cycling in 1986. Some cyclists got together and floated the Galloway Cycling Group. This Group was initially independent, though affiliated to CTC, in order to keep subs down to appeal more widely in such a relatively sparsely populated area.

With time, the number of non-CTC members fell off and the affiliation status was regarded as insufficient for purpose. So, the Group became a Section of Glasgow DA.

With the recent re-organisation of local groups, D&G jumped at the chance to report direct to UK office, so took on the title at the head of this citation.

From the beginning, the Group has held Sunday rides throughout the region. Resulting from Bike Week events in 2002, it was realised that shorter rides were needed to tap another layer of cycling, hence Discovery Rides were born. These are generally in the 12-18 miles range, always in an area of condensed heritage or scenery features, and explore even more of the area.

The Group also plays its full part in cycling representation vis-à-vis the Council and other agencies: its volunteers were the mainstay of the 2006 Birthday Rides in Dumfries, a result of which was recognition by the Council and the Forestry Commission in the form of on road and off-road CTC-branded routes. The Group will also play a part in the Original Bicycle Festival to be staged around Dumfries in May 2009.

Since its inception of the Discovery rides, the Group has built up a band of volunteers who wanted to do more than just go for cycle rides: a desire emerged to do even more to attract less confident cyclists to get involved.

So, in June 2008 the Group launched Wheely-Easy rides. These are just for a handful of miles on a Saturday afternoon, with the same day, same time, same place formula. So far they have been confined to D&G's biggest conurbation, Dumfries, which fortunately has a reasonable network of cycle routes and quiet roads handy. Obviously, such a venture is weather sensitive, and there was some weather in 2008! However, numbers have been quite satisfactory, with a good mix of generations (even three of one family!). This has led the volunteers to aim to start up again in 2009.

### OBF - KM Rally

Despite the cancelling of the Dumfries Mountain Bike Conference in May, the D&G Group and the Council decided to go ahead with the Original Bike Festival. Both will be past by the time you receive this.