

Kirkpatrick Macmillan Birthday Rides August 5th to 11th 2006

CTC Cymru ran a successful event this year at the end of July. We are confident that we can continue the tradition in Dumfries in 2006.

A few people outwith Dumfriesshire have already offered to help, please make other offers to Mike Harrison or John Taylor.

In particular we are looking for about 6 people each day to be ride guides. The idea is not that all rides will go en masse and in formation, but that on at least the C and D rides we will have two people on hand to assist, advise and occasionally point out the route. You don't need to be a native of D&G, and not even a registered CTC Ride Leader. The Family rides will have a leader.

Another job not yet taken up is that of Camp Manager/Camp Assistants. We really do need to have a person 'on duty' most of the time at the camp that people can contact either for information, to report problems or to handle emergency calls from people on rides. It's too much for any one person to be on duty from 0600 to 2300 every day, so a rota of volunteers would be a solution. Volunteers for these or any other jobs – please contact us (Email and phone details on page 2).



Family Ride to Ewephoria - Bala Birthday Rides

In our publicity we are pointing out that Dumfries is NOT near to John O'Groats as some English think. The M6 takes motorists to Carlisle, and it's a very short trip along the A75 to Dumfries. Campers arriving by train/bike can ride along NCN Route 7 from Carlisle to Dumfries, or continue on the train to Lockerbie and ride from there. They can even change at Carlisle and train all the way to Dumfries.

Even knowing this, it is a fact that UK events away from the south coast attract fewer people – travelling in August can be painful (that's why I didn't go to the Rides in Dorset), but our numbers will not drop if we get good support from members who live in Scotland.

There's really no excuse to stay away – and we won't *make* you do any unpleasant duties if you don't volunteer.

Strategies for walking and cycling? - Ensuring the National and Regional Transport Strategies deliver for sustainable transport.

The Scottish Transport Agency is now coming on stream. Malcolm Reed has moved from SPT to direct it. The draft National Transport Strategy (NTS) is about to be published, and the Regional Transport Partnerships are required to revise their existing Regional Transport Strategies (RTS) to take account of their new responsibilities for implementing the national strategy. Similarly Councils are having to revise their Local Transport Strategies. You may think that all this is just for the techies, but the decisions they will make affect anyone who travels, and that includes cyclists and walkers as well as motorists.

If you are not a Right-to-Ride representative (see Jan issue of Cycle Talk for list of who is – it's also on the CTC Scotland web site if you have lost that paper copy) at least support the action the RtR people take on your behalf. CTC will make official comments on all of these consultations, but we need local people to look at all the local plans and people to feed in personal comments to the consultations.

To help, we have arranged a one-day conference in **Stirling** on **November 26th (11:00-16:00)** primarily for RtR reps, but we are inviting people from the walking organisations as well, and for cyclists it's not limited to RtR reps. Details are still being worked out, but will be posted at www.ctcscotland.org.uk/rtr/ as they become available.



*PH says:
"I nearly
fell off,
laughing.
Well, I
nearly
fell off
anyway"*

Autumn AGMs

Even if you don't do club rides with a local CTC group you are still a member of the local District Association. You are entitled to, and we hope that you will, attend the Annual General Meeting. They are all held in October and November and the dates are published in the copy of Cycle you received this in. Please go along to support CTC activity in your area. If you don't like what they do – go and say so, and say why. You may find that you have support! Don't stay away and then grumble about the decisions made at the AGM. CTC is changing – it's getting involved with more activities, more campaigning, more training, different kinds of cycling. There's now a charitable trust which does all the promotional, campaigning and training work, but all the work that the cycle tourist asks for is still going on. Don't just pay your subscription, get involved!

Cycle/Bike-Fest follow-up

In the last issue I explained how Edinburgh is tackling promotion of cycling by a series of stalls at different events instead of one big cycle-only festival. We have now had three of the four. The main participants have been the Bike Station, Spokes and CTC. It has been a great success - more serious enquiries (mainly about routes, getting bikes, maintaining bikes) than we had before. Even on Fringe Sunday when there were lots of shows giving extracts from their performances, we still had a stream of people coming to try various cycles, pick up free copies of the new leaflets the Council has produced showing pleasant recreational rides in the city, and collecting the latest CTC newsletter – they weren't allowed to escape without it! However, the section below shows the huge step between these people and the ordinary CTC member. It's a gap we have to cover if we are to make progress in getting more people cycling more often.

CTC and beginners

Today (Sunday August 21st) I went on a Try Cycling in Edinburgh ride. It was something of an eyeopener. One CTC Councillor has recently been going on about DAs which have had rides in Bike Week described as 'suitable for beginners' which were 45 miles (mentioned in the last Cycle Talk). I thought that we did better than that, but had not realised that what we who are regular riders consider an easy ride is a major expedition to many newcomers to cycling. At one stage I was doing the sweeping, and I was glad that



A rival to Kirkpatrick Macmillan?

36" all-round instead of 30" and 40"

Peter Valente trying it out.

I was on a tricycle as I was not sure that I could have managed to balance on two wheels at the speed we were going at. For a lot of the way we were travelling at less than 5 mph on a completely flat road – I reckon on *walking* at 4 mph.

The other factor is the pathological fear of roads which so many newcomers to cycling have. It's strange, they quite happily step off pavements into the road chattering into phones when being pedestrians but consider that traffic is a threat when they are cycling. My point is that if we are to attract these people into cycling, then we have to be able to think from their current viewpoint. What, as CTC and DAs, we offer is often so far away from their mindset that it is useless. There are exceptions of course – sometimes newcomers try out a CTC ride and take to it instantly, often being surprised that we don't always ride at breakneck speed and do 100 miles in a day. Various organisations offer cycling for beginners with some success. CTC groups could do more if they could get inside the minds of the potential cyclists a bit more.



Dursley-Pedersens look even TALLER with wheels this size

AGM of CTC Scotland

This is provisionally arranged for Jan 21st in Stirling. More details later. What is important now is that your DA AGM appoints or re-appoints the full number of delegates you are entitled to. However, any CTC member is welcome to attend the AGM, even though only the appointed delegates get a vote.

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building a hobby-horse bike at Fringe Sunday

Editor's Notes

The Editor's knuckles were rapped last time for listing contributors, but leaving readers guessing who had written which piece. No problem this time - the words are all mine. Editor

Cycle Talk

This issue went to the printer before the Committee Meeting on September 17th. That meeting may have been forced to decide to cease publication (for the reasons which have been explained before). Scottish news will continue to be published on the web (www.ctcscotland.org.uk). Email editor@CTCScotland.org.uk if you want to get an email reminding you of a new edition on the web. If you've already done this, I have your email, but I do know that quite a few on the list are now dead addresses.

Bike Breakfasts – who are they for?

I got the impression at the two Bike Breakfasts in Edinburgh during Bike Week this year that most of the customers were regular cyclists who don't need an incentive to use bikes to get to work. What can we do to promote Bike2Work more?