



CYCLE TALK

Produced by CTC Scotland

a part of the UK's national
cyclists' organisation

No 46 Dec 2006/Jan 2007

Sign up for email notification of when 'Cycle Talk' is published
Over 12% of Scottish members have already done so
Go to www.CTCScotland.org.uk/newsreg
Simply complete the form

AN OPEN INVITATION!

Yes, to observe CTC Scotland's AGM! We hear criticisms still about us being a "secret society". I can only say that we do try to be in touch with you; currently we do this by a) this very CycleTalk, b) by posting reports of our meetings on our website, and c) by inviting you all to observe our AGM.

In addition, we have contact with the Right to Ride network, and you may contact any one of the committee members, of whom there is at least one in nearly every DA.

AGMs are about organisation. There will be the usual (dry?) order of business up to reports (which will be pre-posted on the website), verification of new reps (most elected at DAs' own AGMs), and any amendments to the constitution. After you have observed that process, I, as current chair, promise to include an opportunity for you to question us about organisation.

All that happens in the morning, but you are also invited to stay for the afternoon's committee meeting, when we get down to a wider (more exciting) agenda about what we are actually doing. We hope that here also, we will have time to give you slots in which to make your comments.

So, come along to **St Mark's Church, Castle Terrace, Edinburgh for 10.45am on Saturday, January 20th.** (Go to Princes St West End, turn left (Lothian rd), then left again at the traffic lights).

A LONG WEEKEND "DAHN SAHTH"

To Parklands to be precise, our brilliant new HQ – NO! I'll get drummed out for calling it that! It's CTC NATIONAL OFFICE!

I won't repeat all of what will be sure to appear in the main magazine, but give you some of my personal experience.

I had originally booked to represent Glasgow DA and D&G Section at the conference which was on the Saturday and Sunday, October 20/21. But, since we had unfortunately no Councillor to keep Scotland to the fore, I, as next senior office-holder, substituted at the official opening day on the Thursday.

I am so pleased that I did, as I experienced such a wealth of enthusiasm and passion about CTC's work at the ceremony and beyond. Some of it was actually going on outside the (staff-designed!) building, in the shape of children from a local school undergoing CTC training. Later, in the conference, when I was asked to write down what I should do more of, I wrote "advocate more passionately".

I can tell you – nowhere will you find more passionately dedicated staff than we have. And I can also tell you, that they are taking more notice of Scotland. CTC Scotland (CTCS) has pioneered the Regional Structure of CTC, and still is its most significant "region" (sacrilege! – should be "nation"!). To us, that's only natural since we have a much more identifiable culture, but that difference took a long time to sink in at top levels. It's appreciated now, though! I am expecting that, with their help, we will make CTC more prominent in our country.

The Friday was more relaxed for the staff, so I took the opportunity of talking to them and driving things forward for us. This resulted in a draft for the next Right to Ride workshop in Scotland (provisionally Feb 3 at Stirling), and other stuff that, expectantly, will be obvious as time goes by.

It was a bit disappointing that only Alex, from Try Cycling Tayside, and I made the effort to go from Scotland. I tell you again, the rest of you missed a highly inspiring time! If you are ever that way, make an appointment to visit!

John Taylor, Chair CTCS

Cycles and Rail

Scotrail and Network Rail were both winners at the Cycle-Rail awards ceremony on 24th October.

Cycle-Rail is promoted by ATOC and judges included Christian Wolmar (Cycling England) Kevin Mayne (CTC) and Edward Funnell (ATOC)

Juliet Donnachie - Manager at Edinburgh Waverley for Network Rail won the Person Award for her support of the Bike Station and cyclists' information board and other initiatives at Waverley.

Scotrail got an award for the North Berwick Flyer refurbishment (Customer Service Excellence) - providing 8 cycle spaces. A nice final result but the lead-up to the launch was a bit disappointing in that they refused to discuss the proposals with cyclists and presented a fait accomplis which fortunately did not turn out like the Class 156 conversion from the 1998 Scottish Cycle Challenge scheme. It would have been nice to have had some inclusion - ideally from the basic design specification stage (as with the SWT refurbishment of trains with the same basic bodyshell), but at least to have seen the basics we were about to get. The appalling refurbishment of the Class 318 trains - which can see up bike numbers into double figures on Ayrshire coast services, competing with golf clubs, prams, luggage for Prestwick, Troon, Stranraer, Ardrossan, and Glasgow Airport, plus holiday destinations, on a train with the misguided cram them in 3+2 seating and ignoring the very valuable improved doorway arrangements devised by SWT (the double doors are not wide enough to comfortably take side by side passenger flows getting on & off the train and this is further aggravated by the pokey vestibule space and opening into the seated saloon space, this in turn makes boarding with bikes messy and leaves nowhere to park them neatly).

Scotrail also got the award for Train Operator of the year, highlighting the cycle parking at every station, and Wick van service. However I gather that this may be dropped in 2007 as it costs around £20,000/year to run*. I'll still appeal (I've only had one response to date) for feedback on the cycle parking at every station delivery, The pictures for Howwood and Paisley Canal show some absolutely useless installations, but are these the exceptions or common results for this project?

*One option might be to get the Orkney Ferries coach to carry bikes & riders to Inverness from John o Groats by a transparent ticket option - which would not detract from the principal journey being made - namely travelling back South - and the midday high season coach service connects with the trains South and East rather than the coach services.

We have a meeting with Scotrail coming up, and I'll appeal again for any items you want to get raised, and some feedback on the cycle parking at your local station - I know that several regular contributors could easily drop by their local station(s) and post a few lines or a jpg photo without going too far off their daily cycle commute/ride.

Also to look at CTC policy on MTB 'uplifts' where the heavy downhill MTB's are carried up to the top and FC is not happy to see the bikes and riders piling into a pick-up or tractor with a sheep trailer and bumping up the forest roads. CTC proposes that the vehicles should meet normal PSV legal requirements - and use the heavy duty vehicles which work perfectly well on the considerably rougher secondary roads of Africa and Asia.

We still have the level crossings issues bubbling away, and Roger noticed that we have the Scottish Outdoor Access Festival coincident with the elections (Local Authority and Scottish Parliament) next May - Its also worth noting that the electoral arrangements for the LA elections will be very different and likely to make it easier for independent candidates to become elected - I'm told the Green Party hope to field a candidate for every ward in Glasgow, and possibly a similar effort elsewhere. We might also see a Controlled Parking - Respond to local Opinion candidate in the West of Glasgow, so I wouldn't be surprised if some of those reading this will be considering their position on standing as a Councillor.

Dave Holladay

Glasgow

CTC Scotland

Sec: Isobel Fletcher, Secretary@CTCScotland.org.uk, +44 (0)141 663 0289

Web Sites

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

PATHS FOR ALL PARTNERSHIP

TEN YEARS OF PATHS FOR ALL - ON THE RIGHT TRACK!

On 19 September the Paths for All Partnership is 10 years old! The Partnership, which now comprises 20 organisations representing relevant public sector and national representative bodies, was set up to facilitate the development and promotion of path networks.

The extent of positive change which has taken place during this time for people enjoying and managing the outdoors has been significant and very encouraging – partly as a consequence of the Partnership's activities.

Ten years ago there was a severe shortage of paths that could be used by the public with confidence. Most were not signposted and there was little information on where people could walk, cycle and ride. Physical barriers and deterring signs restricted access, often arising from land managers' concerns and sometimes due to irresponsible behaviour; and there was generally a very low priority given to access provision.

A decade on and Scotland is well and truly on the right track to being a leader in outdoor access provision. We now have some of the most progressive access legislation in Europe, based on the principles of everyone being responsible for their own actions, respecting the interests of others and caring for the environment.

Outdoor access is now 'mainstream' in terms of delivering a wide range of public benefits in particular in relation to health and well-being, sustainable transport, strengthening communities and economic development. One shining example of this is the Partnership's Paths to Health initiative. This programme aims to improve the nation's health and well-being by encouraging sedentary people to become more active. One GP has referred to Paths to Health as the "best buy in public health"!

Huge advances have been made in making the outdoors more accessible and welcoming. There are many more paths now accessible to a wider range of people, regardless of their age or ability. Big strides forward have taken place to ensure that paths are 'fit for purpose' and satisfy community needs. All 32 local authorities and the 2 national park authorities now have operational Local Access Forums.

Crucially, there are significantly more resources being devoted to creating, promoting and managing path networks. For example, 10 years ago there were only 3 Access Officers in Scotland, now there are 83!

However, the job is not yet complete! The Partnership's vision is for a Scotland of active communities where each community has access to well-used path networks to satisfy their needs and aspirations. The Partnership is proud of its 10 year contribution to the progress that has been made in fulfilling this vision, and recognises that further hard work is required to consolidate and build on this growth. Paths for All Partnership eagerly anticipates the challenges of the next 10 years!

The Partners are:
 British Horse Society
 Convention of Scottish Local Authorities
 Cycling Scotland
 Cyclists' Touring Club
 Forestry Commission Scotland
 Highlands and Islands Enterprise
 NFU Scotland
 NHS Health Scotland
 Ramblers' Association Scotland
 Scottish Canoe Association
 Scottish Countryside Access Network
 Scottish Disability Equality Forum
 Scottish Enterprise
 Scottish Natural Heritage
 Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society
 Scottish Rural Property and Business Association
 Scottish TV and Grampian TV
 sportscotland
 Sustrans Scotland
 VisitScotland

The Partnership is funded by the Scottish Executive Health Department, Scottish Natural Heritage, Big Lottery, British Heart foundation, NHS Health Scotland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and the Centre for Healthy Working Lives.

The Partnership's website address is: www.pathsforall.org.uk

DATES for your DIARY

20 Jan	10:45	CTCS AGM	St Mark's, Castle Terrace, Edin.
20 Jan	p.m.	CTCS Committee	as above
3 Feb	t.b.a.	Right to Ride Conference	County Buildings, Viewforth, Stirling
4 Feb*	t.b.a.	possible extension of RtrR conference/training	
28 April - 7 May		Scottish Outdoor Access Festival	everywhere!
4-7 May		KM Rally	Barnsoul, Shawhead, Dumfries

*Dates marked with an asterisk are still provisional

As you know the Scottish Outdoor Access Festival 28 April - 7 May 2007 will celebrate enjoyment of the outdoors and encourage the public to enjoy the outdoors responsibly.

Information is at www.outdooraccess-scotland.com/festival/ and you can register events you organise on-line.

KM167

We put the venue(s) and the dates for next Kirkpatrick Macmillan Rally into the melting pot to see if we could get back to the Keir/Drumlanrig Castle area, and also to weigh up the pros and cons of our traditional last w/e in May and the first w/e. Actually, it was mainly "staff" availability that has led us to choose the first i.e. May 4-7, but this has an advantage for Scottish members in that everyone is off on May Day. We have, though, maintained the four day span to make it still worthwhile for members to come from the longer distances.

As for venue, further exhaustive checks revealed that a) conditions at Drumlanrig Castle have not improved, and b) there is not a sufficiently expansive serviced site any nearer or better than Barnsoul. (An improvement there is that Archie has installed a proper toilet in the further camping field).

Due to the Ceilidh flop last time (though I know that some actually enjoyed it), we have decided not to have one this time. We will probably have an introductory slideshow (went down well at Birthday Rides), a social type quiz, and a social with food, drink and possible entertainment spots.

So, there it is, folks, May 4-7 at Barnsoul. Booking forms, as usual, will be obtainable from Peter Hawkins (0131 443 6712) from late January. Judging by the reaction to D&G countryside at Birthday Rides, don't be suprised if we are stowed out this time!!

BORDERS

The Borders Section of Lothians DA closed a year or two ago, but there's still a lot of cycling going on, with road & MTB clubs in Borders Towns, notably Peebles, Kelso and Hawick. A group of CTC members, mainly in Galashiels have regular runs once a month in the winter. All are welcome to join them.

Contact Jessie Harrington, 01896 757626, j.harrington@weascotland.org.uk for more details

Date	Start	Destination
16 Dec	Melrose	4 Abbeys (or maybe only 3, depending on weather and daylight!)
13 Jan	Galashiels	Kelso (church coffee morning)
10 Feb	Berwick on Tweed	Duns
10 Mch	Galashiels	Hawick