



CYCLETALK

Produced by CTC Scotland

a part of the UK's national
cyclists' organisation

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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].

Your CTC-S Needs You!

Peter Hawkins, Chair

The finger of Lord Kitchener is pointing straight at you! Luckily your country doesn't need you - not yet anyway - but CTC Scotland does! As I'm sure you know, CTC-S is run entirely by volunteers, and we badly need some new blood, fresh ideas and new faces! The AGM and annual Gathering are coming up (19 Nov.) and this will be your chance to get involved.

The immediate concern is that our Secretary, Mike Harrison, is stepping down after 9½ years in the job. Thinking that it might be ambitious to find someone to do the whole job, we have taken a leaf from the notebook of the philosopher, who pointed out that no matter how big and daunting a job might seem, if it's broken down into small elements and tackled piece by piece, it becomes feasible. So, elsewhere, Mike has set out the components of the Secretary's job, each of which could be taken on by a different person if necessary.

In the last edition of CycleTalk (CT 70), Peter Hayman outlined what CTC-S does and who we are*. Please have a look at this and see how YOU might be able to make a contribution. I don't want to get personal about this, but the committee at the moment consists almost entirely of old men. Well, that's a bit cruel - let's say 'elderly'. Too strong? - 'middle-aged' then? So, quite young really. Young at heart anyway. The point I'm making is that we could do with some gender balance. And it would be nice to have some younger committee members too - but this is CTC after all! The older you get, the less important age becomes.

In sum, three things:

1. please make an effort to come to the AGM and Gathering in Edinburgh (details elsewhere). We provide tea, coffee and a lunch, and a chance to socialise with other members from far and near. Modest travel expenses can be reclaimed, so if you live at a distance, consider booking your ticket now.
2. consider taking on one of the jobs listed overleaf
3. look at the possibility of raising the CTC profile at local events in your area

* If you have mislaid your copy you can get it from our web site.

Bike Club Birthday Reception

Bike Club held a reception to celebrate its first year, and hopefully attract funding from the great and good to enable it a) to continue beyond Dec 2012, and b) to extend to other parts of Scotland beyond the Central Belt.

Matt Kerr, the young and enthusiastic (for cycling) Glasgow City Councillor who currently chairs their Cycle Forum, opened proceedings by noting yet another advantage of cycling (as if we didn't know enough of them!) - cycling as a means of escape! And hence, for youth, the sense of freedom, of independence, and self-reliance (repairing a puncture in the wild).

One day, he told us, he was passed by a bunch of racers. Determined to keep up, he latched onto the back of them on his clunky machine, until eventually they stopped. This kid has promise, they said, and invited him to join - with a 'proper' bike! And so he was introduced to club cycling.

Sarah Merrington, the UK Bike Club Manager, gave an impressive array of statistics for BC in Scotland so far - 50 Clubs established (against a target of 30); 3500 young people engaged in the activity; £90,000 of community grants, with match funding of another £147K; and 72 leaders trained.

The result is that the profile of CTC in Scotland has been raised; Bike Club named as an example of 'best practice' within the Government's Cycle Action Plan for Scotland (CAPS); and named as a contributor to the Glasgow Cycling Strategy.

There followed a series of presentations by individual clubs, such as Liberton High School in Edinburgh, which has 'roped in' some of the feeder primary schools; and Reidvale Youth 'n Action from the East End of Glasgow, which has set up two skills areas in local parks, run maintenance workshops via The Bike Station, done some exploring of the city, and brought in celebrities like Graeme Obree and Nigel Mansell.

Edinburgh Cycling Festival

The Cycling Festival was held in Saughton Park, west Edinburgh, on the afternoon of Friday 26 Aug., organised by Amy Hickman of Bike Cub, and Jenny Jack of Edinburgh Leisure.

After a fine morning, a thunderstorm rolled up at the exact starting time, and lasted over an hour. The adults mainly huddled under the gazebos, but the kids weren't put off, they just went out and got wet!

Because of the weather, the pump track brought by The Bike Station couldn't be used, but there were cyclo-cross races, 'test your skills' courses, and numerous stalls.

An outfit called 'Peachy Keen' brought two pedal-powered generators, one of which was fitted to pump coloured water from one container to another via a long and complex set of plastic pipes; kids could see the water moving as they pedalled. The other was attached to a water gun, which could be fired at skittles and tumblers to knock them off a table. This required co-operation, one to set up the skittles, another to pedal the generator, and one to fire the gun. Of course the gun only worked if someone else pedalled, and the harder it was pedalled, the more powerful the jet.

The kids just loved this. Even quite small youngsters, their legs too short to reach the pedals properly, were determined to drive it somehow! And they were remarkably restrained about not turning the gun on each other!

The 'bling your bike' stall was equally popular, and gave everyone a chance to be creative with coloured pipe cleaners, gold ribbon, and stick-on monsters.

The organisers hope to build up the event over the coming years.



In the lobby area, another dozen clubs displayed posters about themselves. The diversity of clubs, and the variety of activities they engage in, was outstanding. Perhaps the most heart-warming was a club called 'Deaf Connections', which is reaching out to the whole deaf community in Glasgow (including adults), giving a marginalised group new skills and new self-confidence.

Many speakers praised the work of the two enthusiastic BC Officers, Amy and Victoria, who have truly 'gone the extra mile' over the past year. All the indications are that the targets - such as involving 'hard to reach' groups - will be met. We must all make every effort to ensure that Bike Club's successes come to the attention of MSPs and other policy makers, with a view to continuing its funding, and extending its operations more widely across the country.

GATHERING - IV & AGM

Saturday 19th November 2011
10:30 - 15:30

Eric Liddell Centre, 15 Morningside Road
Edinburgh, EH10 4DP (at 'Holy Corner')
please contact secretary@ctcscotland.org.uk
or 0131 448 0930 before the 17th so food
can be ordered

We are looking for more participation from members in the management of CTC Scotland.

In May the committee identified over 40 contact points between CTCs and other organisations/events. Some are one-offs, some annual events (e.g. Pedal for Scotland), some regular meetings (e.g. Aberdeen Cycle Forum, local Access Forums) all taking up time and skills.

With over 4000 members in Scotland, it doesn't seem right that some five or six people, all unpaid volunteers, should do most of the work. So we are looking for more people to spread the work around, but without having to create more layers of administration to manage it.



Events Organiser

CTCS has an opportunity to promote itself and gain new members. This can be done at 3 levels:

- Every member can do this - carry a CTC membership leaflet or CTC 'visiting card'; ride leaders should get these from the local group Secretary to give to visitors
- There are many local events where CTC could have a stall. We need members at local level to identify these, arrange to get materials and volunteer to staff them.
- There are the big events (Pedal for Scotland).

We need someone to take charge of the **administrative side** - making sure we have recruiting leaflets, arranging to get them and the banners to events, keeping track of where the banners are (!), arranging for staffing of the stall at the big national events.

CTC-S is keen to be present at 4 or 5 key events per year. We have gazebos, leaflets and willing volunteers; what we need is someone to organise them! You don't have to attend every event (or any), you just need to be able to arrange that a small group of volunteers is there and equipped.

All out of pocket expenses are refunded, so if you do want to attend the events it could be worth your while volunteering to '(wo)man the stand'! If you would like to have a further chat about what the role might be please give Suzanne a ring on 0131 554 2561 or email suzanne.forup@youthscotland.org.uk

Independent Examiner for our accounts

Our accounts do not require a full audit but do have to be examined by a qualified accountant prior to submission in October each year. There is a vacancy for a volunteer to do this for us.

VACANCIES for you

Bike Club & CTC member help

On page 1 you can read what Bike Club has achieved in Scotland in just one year. Bike Club recognises that cycling can improve the lives of young people by increasing physical activity levels, improving health and wellbeing, encouraging learning and building social inclusion for all. This is reflected in the diversity of the cycling projects we have helped established in Scotland. These include working with young people from families on low income, black and minority ethnic groups, young people with disabilities, girls only projects and young people not in employment or education.

Bike Club is keen to involve more CTC members in the development of Bike Club. If you could help with cycle training, leading rides, route planning let us know. For more information contact Suzanne Forup on 0131 554 2561 or email suzanne.forup@youthscotland.org.uk. Further information about Bike Club can be found at <http://bikeclub.org.uk/category/scotland/>

National Cycling Tourism Forum

For 130+ years members have appreciated the pleasures and practicalities of the bicycle and cycling. The modern CTC now covers the many extended aspects of these as well as the 'Touring' in its original name.

However we still deal with traditional 'Tourism'. CTC has a wealth of tour and route information available, including for the End-to-End, there is CTC Cycling Holidays in Scotland, and Travel Insurance.

Scotland now has set up a *National Cycling Tourism Forum*, to bring together and coordinate all those with any interests in the tourism aspects of cycle. A project manager has been appointed and the group, meeting about three times a year, is getting down to business. **We need a CTC member interested in cycle touring, to continue to represent the Club on this body.**



meanwhile...

our vice-chairman has been cycling in Tibet and e-mailed these pictures, demonstrating that we are not the only ones to have problems with roads. Call FillThatHole!



Honorary Secretary

MH writes:

After two terms (total 8.5 years) as secretary (with the required break between these two terms of a year) it's time for someone else to take over as secretary. I've been asked to say a little bit about what's involved in the job. The "statutory" bits are actually quite small and cover only two areas -

- Meetings - make arrangements (venue and time), circulate agenda and minutes and relevant documents, with the chair scrutinise minutes (the secretary does not actually have to take minutes personally).
- Correspondence - either deal with it or refer it to some other member of the committee or National Office.

A lot of the job is delegation - passing tasks on to the most appropriate person to deal with it, passing information on (some call this work avoidance!).

That's it! Well no, it isn't actually. Over the years the office bearers have gradually taken on more and more. For example the councillor has a responsibility to represent Scottish members at the UK Council and to communicate with member groups and the unattached members, but if you have been reading Cycle Talk for the last three years, you will know the range of activities that Peter Hayman has undertaken for CTC. The extras that I have been doing have largely been concerned with communication - gathering copy for Cycle Talk, making up the layout, getting it to the printer; maintaining the database for mailshots, issuing the mailshots; representing cycling on the board of Transform Scotland.

CONTACT SECRETARY (see page 1) FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ANY OF THESE JOBS

The times they are a-changin'

Mike Gray, CTC-S Treasurer

Earlier this year CTC Council charged the Member Group Steering Committee with bringing together ideas and proposals for changing the structure and support of Member Groups. Mainly these proposals cover the constitution of and relationships between MGs, the status of non-members on rides and funding assistance. A detail summary is beyond the scope of a short item, but here's a brief outline.

Member groups will have more flexibility in defining their areas and cross group activities, with groups free to work out their own structures, within the CTC policies, to meet local needs. This also means free to not change, should members of a group feel comfortable with the status quo.

There will be equality of access to rides for full and associate members (though associates have restricted rights in other ways), and some relaxation in the rules for inclusion of non-members on club rides.

The present capitation funding assistance system will be replaced with a fixed annual sum, to help smaller groups meet running expenses.

For more details please contact Mike Gray (grayjohnmichael@aol.com)