



Ecosse Northboats Cycling Club
AGM Minutes
21 January 2021
www.tencycling.co.uk



held at: remotely via Microsoft Teams

Chaired by Pete Lowson

Minute Taker Mike Lowson

1. Welcome and Apologies

TEN chair Pete Lowson welcomed 18 members to the online meeting and thanked them for their attendance, noting that it was unfortunate not being able to meet in person once again. The planned social element of the AGM will be held at a later date.

A number of members sent apologies however Pete recorded Stuart and Kate from the committee as being unable to attend due to work commitments.

2. Minutes from last meeting

The minutes of the previous AGM, held online in January 2021, were approved without comment.

3. Chairman Annual Report

Club membership currently stands at 127 (99 adults and 28 youths) which is up on 108 from last year and only slightly down on the 133 of 2019 however this was positive given the continuing restrictions with Covid. 68% male and 32% female, which is a 2% rise in female membership over 2019, which is in the right direction.

61% of membership were also a member of British Cycling. Pete reminded members that British Cycling membership provides the governing body with more of a 'voice' and some of their membership categories also provide additional insurance benefits, which is important for all cyclists to consider.

Big success story of the past year was our TEN Youths achieving Go Ride Clubmark status. Months of work and over 23 documents of evidence submitted, this milestone highlights the efforts of our coaching team to deliver safe, engaging and regular coaching sessions providing parents with the confidence they are coming to an excellent club.

The Tour of Britain was a standout event. The club gazebo was placed on a corner near Castle Fraser and was the centre of an amazing atmosphere, with club riders and other cyclists supporting the pro teams passing by.

The club has been part of the Scottish Cycling Club Development Programme, however due to Covid and other priorities for the governing body, there has been no activity for this in 2021.

Our youths were once again present at the St Andrews Parade and Christmas Lights switch on. Snow falling added to the atmosphere which is already a firm favourite for the kids (and adults).



The club held its first club run time trials, as a test event for more to come. It was lovely to see so many people out volunteering at these events as well as giving it a go. Pete stressed that the club's focus will remain as a social club, but that with a growing number keen to give time trials a go, it was a positive addition to the club calendar. Thanks were given to everyone who supported these and to Jacqueline for bringing it all together.

The club survey for 2021 showed a satisfaction score of 83%, compared to 84% in 2019 (one was not conducted in 2020 due to lack of club activity because of Covid).

4. Treasurer Annual Report

Rhian opened her report saying that the club started 2021 with just under £7,000 in the bank. With various outgoings over the past 12 months, we finished the year with £5,500 in the bank.

A major spend was the club-branded gazebo which will be a very good investment for future events. In summary, a healthy bank balance to start the year which will help us fund any future events we run.

5. Ride Secretary Annual Report

Jacqueline noted that rides only restarted in late May due to Covid but they have all proved successful.

A total of 35 new members attended the Welcome Rides on Monday or on the Ladies rides on Tuesday. The latter averaged eight members on every ride. The Wednesday social ride varied between eight and 18 members from May to October.

The focus on the new season is to get members to work out their own average speed to enable them to better choose the most suitable rides for them.

The Training ride did not restart on Thursdays, but it is planned to reinstate this in the coming season. It will take place at a faster pace than other rides and those unable to keep up will be dropped, unlike in all other rides. It will still be in line with our sociable aims, but much quicker.

The Saturday social unfortunately saw much shorter rides, mostly with no coffee stops due to Covid, but it is planned to get that going again in 2022. It averaged 8 to 16 members taking part.

This year's new Sunday Saunter went down really well with an average of 9 members attending each week for the lower distance and much steadier ride. The goal is to continue this ride and increase it's frequency if possible.

We also organised cycle maintenance classes and received good feedback from them.

Areas in which we are looking to improve in 2022 are based on the club survey and on feedback from ride leaders. They include ride members looking at the route in advance rather than relying solely on the leader; ensuring that ride expectations are clear and members knowing in advance their rough average speed on rides.

6. Youth Secretary Annual Report

Rhian reported that there are now 28 kids going to regular Saturday coaching. It has been a successful year having taken on 5 or 6 new members despite limitations caused by Covid.

There are a couple of new coaches including Malcolm at Level 2 and Sandy at Level 1. Leonie has also been assisting and is awaiting her Level 1 course.



Coaching has been at Midmill in Kintore but we have also tried different venues including the Grampian Transport Museum track and are looking to do more of that in the coming year. At coaching we concentrate largely on skills but also on fun.

Unfortunately, the final term of 2021 was heavily impacted by poor weather so different activities are being considered which can be offered when the weather is unsuitable for outdoor coaching.

7. Club document acceptance

Pete had circulated the new club disciplinary procedure prior to the meeting. He highlighted that this was a mandatory document for any clubs affiliated to Scottish Cycling and similar documents would be seen at all clubs in Scotland.

It is not intended to be heavy handed or get in the way of members getting out to ride their bikes, but as a responsible club, it gives us a framework should it be required for inappropriate behaviour.

Despite some casual conversation on Spond, no comments were received by the club and there were no objections at the meeting to the document being approved.

8. Club strategy / outlook

Pete began by summarising some of the key points raised during the survey, passing on the committee's thanks for those who completed it.

A consistent and good satisfaction score but short of our target of 90% so we will be concentrating on this.

Several positive comments including thanking all those who work hard to make the club run, the ride leaders for their commitment in the rides, and comments about the club such as warm, welcoming, inclusive, friendly, sociable and supportive.

Some points to address and consider by the committee included:

Rides: impression that rides are for racers, riders feeling they aren't fast enough, riders not wanting to ride as part of the group.

All of these were disappointing to hear and will be addressed, initially during a ride leader meeting at the start of Feb. Reassurance was provided that the focus of the club is on social, friendly and inclusive riding. Everyone on club rides is encouraged to keep a group mentality in mind. Riding in a group is safer, more efficient and more enjoyable, with the ride leaders there to facilitate this.

Please do let a ride leader, Jacqueline as the ride secretary or a member of the committee know if you have any feedback. Alternatively, Kate as our WPO can be contacted on welfare@tencycling.co.uk. We will be making this very clear at the start of the new membership year.

Pete reminded members that it is a club policy that all rides must be led by a ride leader, or ride supervisor. The ride leaders do volunteer and we continue to support them in this role and ultimately stress that they should be able to enjoy riding their bike at the same time. This therefore can limit what rides we are able to deliver e.g. a shorter ride at the weekend is a priority for the committee, but we do need ride leaders to manage this and we will not pressure anyone to do this who is not keen.

Therefore, if anyone would like to step forward to help, please let Jacqueline know and we'll provide any training you may need/want.

There were some comments around Covid safety. The club has spent a lot of time on Covid policy and monitoring both national guidance and governing body instructions. It is completely understandable that everyone has differing views over the impacts of



Covid and how comfortable they feel in any situation and therefore we would fully expect that anyone not willing to take part/attend a café would not do so.

Pete added that the club would regularly continue to ask, through word of mouth, emails or messages for any ideas or opinions on what members would like from the club. However, to date, generally comments are rarely received on anything other than what is already being provided. Please do let Pete or any of the committee know of areas you would like to see improved and we will do our very best to deliver this.

The club will also aim to provide more social events and support for those preparing for and taking part in sportives, something that has been achieved with great success previously.

The club was also asked about mountain bike rides in the winter. The club has looked at this before however there are limitations on what we are permitted to deliver as a club with relevant qualifications and/or liabilities on club officials. Nothing stops members organising ad hoc rides but to arrange something more official, with what is a very technical skill, is difficult without lots more work.

The club will continue to build membership back up following Covid – we have seen a really encouraging gradual increase and confident of this continuing through 2022.

We want to increase the number of ladies riding with the club building on the 2% increase on 2019.

We will aim to increase the number of youth members in the coaching sessions although this is somewhat limited by coach availability and venue size.

We will aim to improve the club's reach and perception for social rides, building on our reputation and attract new members to the club.

There will be new member benefits for the new season and all members will be issued with a club fob, an artist impression of which was shown at the meeting.

There will be a new fee structure in place, with different options for payment (including direct debit), but member fees are not changing from previous years.

There will also be the introduction of a non-riding membership, for anyone interested in joining in with social events and/or supporting the club in other ways, without riding.

9. Club management system

This has been raised previously but a Scottish Cycling provided system, utilising ClubServe, will be used to manage memberships from the new membership year. The TEN system is currently being setup and we'll provide demonstrations very soon.

The new club management system will improve our ability to get messages directly to you and much more will come out about this soon, in time for the new season. We will also revise our overall communication strategy within the club and with external stakeholders, ensuring you know how to contact the relevant people as required.

10. Committee

The current committee consist of seven members, with duplicate roles in some places.

Ideally, we could do with at least one other member, particularly to fill the vacant secretary role.

No nominations were received at the meeting but members interested should contact Pete on secretary@tencycling.co.uk.

Chair

Pete



Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Rhian
Ride Secretary	Jacqueline
Social Secretary	Chris
Event Secretary	Vacant
Youth Secretary	Rhian
Go Ride	Pete
WPO	Kate
Covid Coordinator	Stuart
Communications	Mike

11. Upcoming Rides and Events

There are lots of events to look forward to, details of which will be circulated to everyone in due course.

The club will be organising two regional road races (18/06 and 28/07) plus the regional championship time trial on 11/09.

Inverurie is celebrating the Queen's platinum jubilee with many events, including a family street party on Sun 5 June, at which the club will have a stall. Pete noted that it would be good to have a small subgroup to plan activities for this. In addition, Pete is hoping to organise a youth race on Fri 3rd.

The Tour of Britain grand depart is taking place from Aberdeen and the Shire on Sunday 4 Sep, with support races on the Saturday. Exciting news to come regarding this soon and we will hope for great club support for this event.

We will be looking to organise a confined time trial league, based on the success of last year's test events and all going well, organise a trip to the velodrome in Glasgow.

12. Club awards

The 2021 club awards were presented by Mike who noted thanks to everyone who submitted nominations for this year's club awards.

Newcomer of the year – **Mark Stephen**

A unanimous decision from our ride leaders for going from a complete novice to completing Etape Loch Ness and being a regular on club rides.

Race Rider of the Year – **Steve Wilson**

At least 3 top 10 finishes in races this year plus a very good time at the Etape Loch Ness.

Volunteer of the Year – **Fiona Auld**

For providing lots of dedicated support and enthusiasm as a club coach, giving up her Saturday mornings to work with the youths, helping out at the St Andrew's Parade and running a Christmas card quiz.

Also, special mention to all our wonderful volunteers including ride leaders, coaches, event support and committee – many of whom were nominated for this award.

Safety Award – **Jacqueline Ross**



For excellent preparation of the test club time trials and the coordination and support of the ride leaders, including ensuring that feedback is addressed as fairly and quickly as possible.

An honourable mention to Stuart as well for his tireless work on Covid meetings and guidance.

A special mention and award was given to **Mike Reilly** for his time running some very well received maintenance classes.

Most Improved Youth Rider – **Elena Watt**

For coming a long way since joining in 2019, showing significant progress over the past year becoming far more confident and capable.

Youth Rider of the Year – **Finlay Hanton**

For a great deal of enthusiasm to progress and learn plus regularly riding away from coaching, including on the turbo. However his attitude and commitment to return from a nasty crash on the road, returning to help out at the coaching before he was back on his bike epitomised the values of the club.

Spirit of the Club – **Julie Ritchie**

For embodying the spirit of the club, always being there to lead a ride and being great fun to be around. It's precisely what the club is all about.

Club Member of the Year – **Darren Ross**

For always being keen to lead rides, step in when others are not available and to volunteer to help at events. Also for arranging social occasions after rides, looking to organise trips such as to the Velodrome and keeping riders engaged by suggesting ad hoc rides.

Congratulations to all our winners and to everyone who was nominated. The club is for the members and your continued support and enthusiasm is always appreciated.

13. AOB

Pete raised awareness of member Fraser Beattie's Tour de Fraz sponsored event in the summer and encouraged other members to support him where they could.

It was also noted that anyone else undertaking events or challenges should let the club know.

