



Ecosse Northboats Cycling Club
AGM Minutes
15 March 2024
www.tencycling.co.uk



held at: Drouthy Laird, Inverurie

Chaired by Pete Lowson

Minute Taker Ann Lowson

1. Welcome and Apologies

TEN chair Pete Lowson welcomed 30 members to the AGM and social evening.

Several members sent apologies and Pete recorded Stuart and Kate from the committee as being unable to attend.

2. Minutes from last meeting

The minutes of the previous AGM, held online in March 2023, were approved without comment.

3. Chairperson Annual Report

Member numbers – 128 members, 27 youths. This is just down on last year which is slightly disappointing. However, the engagement and regular attendees at rides and coaching has been higher, which is pleasing. The committee will be focussing more on club promotion and looking to build on these numbers for next year, while maintaining the club ethos and values.

71% of members were male and 29% female which is similar to last year though a slightly lower female share.

From the annual club survey, the satisfaction score is up again to 96% which is positive and gives the committee confidence in what is being done is right.

A busy May including the Coronation event in Inverurie, Northboats Road Race and the Inverurie Wellness Open afternoon.

In June, the club supported the launch of Cycling Without Age Inverurie and it is great to see this up and running and now started a Kemnay group too.

No official club involvement in the World Championships but a number of members were down either volunteering and/or watching. It was amazing to have world class riders from all disciplines taking part.

August was once again Ride the North which had amazing club turnout with around 30 taking part, which is not far off a 1/3 of adult members. Thank you to Barry for pulling all this together. It is amazing when we get a group of riders, from all backgrounds and who possibly did not know each other before joining the club, getting out and enjoying riding their bikes. This was one of the highlights of the year.



In September, members supported marshalling and driving at the Scottish Road Race and in November, the club received the new youth trophy.

In December the youths once again took part in the St Andrews Parade. It was a shortened walk this year which was a real shame, but still lovely to be part of.

While it was not for everyone, it was great to have groups organised on Zwift which saw good numbers keeping the miles up throughout winter, enjoying a chat and even trying racing.

4. Treasurer Annual Report

At last year's AGM, Kay volunteered to take over the vacant role of treasurer although Pete apologised that due to several factors, it had taken a long time to get Kay access to the accounts. This has now been completed but Pete provided an overview for the meeting.

The account balance was recorded as £4168.19.

As well as ongoing costs such as internet and email, the main outgoings for the previous year has been courses, youth kit, clothing, social (e.g. AGM) and promotion.

5. Ride Secretary Annual Report

Jacqueline noted a positive year for club rides with average riders on Wednesdays being 16, which is double from last year.

Saturdays averaged around 10 riders but this was far more in the better weather!

Group splits are planned on Spond but then always assessed dynamically as it really helps the efficiency and enjoyment of the groups. The ride leaders encourage people to join a group they are comfortable in (e.g. 12-14, 14-16 and 16+) and while it is beneficial for riders to move up levels when they are ready, it is appreciated that some may prefer to stay in the same groups.

Average around 4+ riders on the Sunday ad hoc rides and members are reminded that this is a really pleasant gentle ride which is published on Spond every so often.

There are 12 active ride leaders/supervisors but the more the better so if anyone would like to volunteer, it would be very much welcomed. Craig and Kate have become leaders this year.

There were no ladies' rides this year but they will be reintroduced again in 2024, with the emphasis on building confidence and not on speed.

The Brewdog socials proved popular so these will return, though this year on the 1st Wednesday in every month. They see riders head to Brewdog after the rides, though anyone who could not make the rides are also welcome!

6. Youth Secretary Annual Report

Unfortunately the club did not receive any responses to the youth feedback form, however, there have been some really positive individual responses throughout the year. Including from one parent who thanked the club for building the confidence of their kids to the point that they signed up for Kayleigh's Wee Stars.

Turbo/roller sessions have gone well over the winter. Up to to 9 or 10 kids attended on Monday evenings which is up significantly on last year.

The Saturday coaching sessions have been fully engaged, working through lots of techniques both on and off road. It has been great to see riders progressing and, in many cases, probably putting a lot of the adults to shame!!



Some have also tried racing throughout the year which is great to see.

7. Club document acceptance

There were no new club documents requiring acceptance.

However, Pete provided a reminder that all the relevant club documents are now available on Spond and visible to everyone. These will be regularly reviewed and update as required. The weather guide, for example, was updated this year with some minor amendments.

8. Club strategy / outlook

There was a bit of Spond conversation about weather during the year and also feedback in the feedback form regarding this. This is always a difficult one and very much open to rider perception and judgement. Ultimately our ride leaders and supervisors have to judge conditions on behalf of all riders and the club. The weather guidance document is there as an aid and the club will always support their call to cancel, if this is the safest option for all. Riders can always make their own individual decision outside of that. The ride leaders may also have to make a call a bit in advance, to support those with other plans and/or who need to travel to the start. And there is also a consideration for weather across the whole route.

If a ride is cancelled but a member would still like to go out, consider putting a post on Spond indicating your intention and others may well want to join. However, this would not be an official club ride.

Pete provided some more detail from the club survey.

Ride wise, the summary of these is positive so no changes are anticipated (other than the reintroduction of the ladies ride). We are also hoping to bring back a training ride which will be focussed more on those wanting higher end performance, perhaps leading towards racing. It will be an excellent progression from the faster Wednesday group.

There has also been mention of a shorter weekend ride. This regularly comes up and is very much on the committee's radar. With all club rides, the viability effectively comes down to ride leader availability. If someone is keen on this and happy to help, the club is more than happy to deliver one. We are very conscious that a slower and/or shorter weekend ride is something the club is missing so will continue to look at options.

Overall, more than 50% of replies had been out at least once a week and almost $\frac{3}{4}$ once every two weeks, so ride attendance by larger numbers is improved on previous years.

As per every year, distance, route, speed and start time all have the biggest variance of result, showing how difficult it is to suit everyone! Comments have come in regarding start time and wish for a faster group. Hopefully the training ride will help with this.

In terms of club benefits/discounts, the committee feel the club now offers quite a good range of options from bike maintenance etc, to coffee shops, online business and off the bike support such as mindfulness. There were some good suggestions which will be investigated but if there are others, let Pete know and the club can approach them to confirm if something official is an option.

In terms of club events, there was wide support for a lot of the suggested options, indicating people may be keen on doing other things. As before though, the committee need support to do this. If you would like a trip somewhere (e.g. the velodrome), a



weekend away or some sort of social, let us know, or better still, volunteer to organise it!!

Some members have indicated an interest in a skills session so the club will look at putting something together with our coaches.

Pete then briefed members on the headline for the coming year – the club's 10-year anniversary. The initial plan was to cycle from Aberdeenshire to Paris for charity and the idea of a team started to emerge. Unfortunately, this was not possible at the time because of logistics challenges with a young family but following a meeting with a couple of others during the Great Inverurie Bike Ride who then knew a couple more, in Jan 2014, it resulted in us holding our first committee meeting and signed our first constitution. There have been several people through the committee since then and the club has grown from half a dozen riders to well over a hundred, started our youth section in 2018 and become a Go Ride accredited club, have been represented at the Tour Series, Tour of Britain and several local events and now have kit, gazebo and plenty other 'stuff'!! Members have come and gone, riders young and not so young start with the club, either as a novice or experienced rider, and grow in confidence and watch friendships be made.

TEN has become known throughout the region and the country, earned a place on Scottish Cycling's club development programme and was part of the testing team of the club management system.

Pete noted that he is proud of everything the club is about and that the ethos shines through in everything the club does. That is down to everyone involved but ultimately, it is about the members.

The committee has discussed options to mark the occasion and now have two key plans. The anniversary kit is one. A good number of members have already ordered this and there will be another opportunity later in the year. The committee will then decide whether to make it available in future years.

The committee is also excited to announce that on the 25th of May, the club will be running an anniversary event from Fetternear hall. This will allow all members to ride for TEN. Whether that is 10 minutes, 10k, 100k or 100 miles, the rides will start from Fetternear and on return, there will be food and hopefully a chance to socialise. More details about this will be circulated in due course.

The 10 years will be celebrated throughout the year and mentioned at other events.

There will be a drive to bring more girls and ladies to the club and hoping to offer more opportunities for our youth riders. Our ladies ride will support with this and the committee will discuss options with Scottish Cycling and Elgin CC, who have increased their numbers recently.

The future is bright and the committee hope members will continue to support with this.

Pete then took the opportunity to remind all members about communication. If there is anything members want to feedback, recommend or otherwise comment, please speak to whoever is most appropriate. That might be a ride leader, a coach, our wellbeing and protection officer, committee or come to Pete direct. There is also the feedback option on the club portal. The club really does want to hear from members and would rather deal with something at the time than let it fester.

9. Club management system / member benefits / fee structure

The club has no current intention of using the club management system for additional reasons other than some events and of course, membership.



Pete reminded the meeting of the club benefits available and would recommend members make full use of these. Anyone with any more suggestions, please let the committee know. Nevisport was considered and approached but they require any discount to be assigned to individuals only so would not be appropriate for the club.

Fees are going to stay the same for another year though our youth membership and coaching will be charged as one with options to pay monthly.

10. Committee

Pete thanked the efforts of all the committee and noted that while they had not met as often as they would have liked this year due in most part to other commitments, they had been active on Spond and moving the club forwards.

The committee is still short on a some roles, particularly social secretary, youth secretary and possibly someone looking after events. Ultimately, the roles are somewhat arbitrary and any support is very much appreciated.

There were no volunteers or nominations at the meeting but members interested should contact Pete on secretary@tencycling.co.uk.

Chair	Pete
Secretary	Ann, with support from Pete and Jacqueline
Treasurer	Kay
Ride Secretary	Jacqueline
Social Secretary	Vacant
Event Secretary	Vacant
Youth Secretary	Vacant
WPO	Kate with support from Michael

11. Upcoming Rides and Events

Social rides will start from 1st April with the welcome ride and ladies ride from the 6th May.

On 23rd May the usual Northboats road race will be held, again at Fetternear and Pete will come out to members for volunteers soon. The club will also be aiming to have the confined time trials back this year.

Members may have seen that through Live Life Aberdeenshire, Bob Lyon is doing a presentation on Coach Clinics on 27th March, but it covers all about the experiences with Alba Road Development Team, Scotland's elite female cycling team. Unfortunately, they had to cancel Stonehaven and Ellon but Inverurie is still going ahead, with TEN represented more than any other club. Pete asked if the session could be filmed, as some can't manage. Bob has offered a step better in delivering an evening specifically for TEN. Pete noted that he was not sure at this stage what exactly this would entail but he is keen to see what the interest may be.

12. Club awards

The committee decided this year to reduce the number of awards down to two.

Exciting to this year be presenting the Ion Keith Falconer Memorial Award for Youth achievement and the Club Member of the Year award. Pete thanked everyone who nominated members.



This year there were two who stood out amongst the nominees. There can only be one winner but Pete thanked both as their support has been first class.

A special commendation was noted to John Simpson who has been a long-standing member of the club who is liked by all, is always keen to volunteer to support at events and lead rides, often allowing other ride leaders to go in other groups. It is always a pleasure to have him around in everything the club does and sincere thanks for that.

Club member of the Year: Barry Skinner

Barry has continued to regularly support club rides, including the welcome ride but has also made a big contribution towards organising two of the more successful things this year. He drove forward the organisation of the club's Zwift group including the regular rides and the work and detail involved in planning and organising the club's Ride the North participation which saw us have the best attendance of any year.

The youth award was not announced at the AGM but was presented at the coaching session on Saturday 16th March.

Ion Keith-Falconer Memorial Award for Youth Achievement: Jamie Galloway

Jamie has been a committed member of our youths since joining and has progressed very well through the variety of techniques. Despite sometimes finding activities difficult, he has stuck at it and often manages to surprise himself by managing skills he is unsure about. He has been a cheery member and a great example of excellent attitude during coaching sessions.

13. AOB

No items of AOB were raised.

