



Ecosse Northboats Cycling Club
AGM Minutes
3 March 2023
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 20 members to the AGM and social evening.

A number of 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 January 2022, were approved without comment.

3. Chairperson Annual Report

Club membership currently stands at 132 members of which 29 are youths, slightly up on the 127 from last year. This is pleasing, as last year was very much a reset following the disruption from Covid and we did not push promotion of the club too much.

67% of members are male and 31% females, with 2% from other categories. This is almost exactly consistent with last year which is something the committee will be focussing on.

Thankfully Covid has not had so much of a factor on club activities. Racing across the region has returned and we have enjoyed getting our club rides back to more normality.

The satisfaction score from the club survey is 93%, well up on last year and above our club strategy target of 90%.

One of the first events we supported in the year was the launch of the Aberdeenshire Ascents. Club represented at the launch at Marischal college and then members met for a photo shoot at the foot of the Suie.

In May we once again supported Run Garioch with riders leading the runners and the club gazebo was pitched in the event village.

For the Queen's Jubilee, we organised a youth event at the community campus which saw several groups come, enjoy a free coaching session and then have a shot at the Live Life wooden track. We then were in attendance for the street party market and had a great spot at the back of the town hall, with plenty space and in the sunshine!

Ride the North was popular as always, with a good few members taking part. We can hopefully coordinate that more this year.



We ran the Northboats RR in August, with a dead heat between the two Spokes racers, and our TT was scheduled for the same day the Queen cortege left Balmoral. It took a fair bit of communication between Scottish Cycling, officials and volunteers to determine the best course of action. In the end, rider race manual was updated and we marked the occasion by a moment's silence prior to announcing the results. This, we felt, was the most appropriate course of action and was supported by the riders taking part.

One of the big events of the year was Tour of Britain. The preparation for the event was massive and the club played a part in that. Once again we provided lots of willing volunteers to support the marshalling of the event, to which Aberdeenshire Council and Scottish Cycling supported a bespoke training session for. There was a theory session followed by a practical demonstration, with some of our youth riders taking part as a mini-peloton at the community campus!

The Saturday of the ToB weekend was long but stunning. We had a prime position at the end of Belmont Street, where we once again promoted the club but supported with some of the organisation of the event. It was a fabulous day, well organised with some really great racing on display – including youth riders, representation in the British Cycling races plus riders in the corporate races.

The Sunday was somewhat of a disappointment! Not due to any of the organisation or the joy at seeing the professional peloton coming through Inverurie, but the weather truly was biblical. The marshals were still out keeping things safe, the gazebo was outside the town hall and there were quite a few brave club members and public out supporting.

Towards the end of the year, we were once again out promoting the club, this time at the Clubfest event in the Town Hall. This was surprisingly good in many ways, with loads of people coming through the hall.

We also attended the Scottish Cycling AGM at Hampden which was very interesting and useful. We contributed to several of the open table discussions on the sport as a whole and listened to the launch of some SC initiatives.

Loads of charity events this year including Fraser, Iain and Darren & friends. These rides, runs, walks etc. are so important for the nominated charities and each in their own right are absolutely fabulous. We find it difficult to keep track of what everyone is doing so please do let us know if you'd like to share anything on our social media platforms and of course, pop a post on Spond.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the club in whatever form that may be. We hope to have much of the same this coming year, and so much more.

4. Treasurer Annual Report

This year we have not had a treasurer so Pete has been managing the accounts. We have had slightly less income this year due to not being able to run as many youth sessions, but membership was still good.

Some fairly significant outgoings including promotional materials in the lead up to ToB, new youth equipment including a cart to carry more of the heavier items around and training courses including first aid refreshers for our coaches.

Balance prior to this meeting was £3889.90.



5. Ride Secretary Annual Report

Jacqueline was pleased to say that club rides are still proving to be popular and members feel welcomed. It would be lovely to be able to offer more rides to suit all stages and abilities but rides can only be offered if there are volunteers to lead them.

Jacqueline praised the leaders for their commitment and enthusiasm.

There is now a focus on growing membership and attendance at rides.

Monday welcome rides, which Jim looks after, have been a great success so will be continued.

Tuesday rides for ladies have been very successful and a great way to build confidence. Some ladies have now joined Wednesday rides and we did stop these mid-season to encourage the progression, but there are still many who would like to see Tuesday rides restarting so this is something that it is hoped will go ahead.

Wednesday's riders have enjoyed being able to see group splits and information about the rides on Spond so they can choose the one that suits them best.

Saturday was also popular with groups split by speed where possible.

Jacqueline stressed though how important it is that no-one should feel bad about being at the back of any of the groups or feeling they're going slower than the rest.

Racing groups will not be able to proceed until someone is found to lead them.

There will be club members taking part in the Loch Ness Etape and Ride the North. Jacqueline is to look at arranging a get together before the Etape.

6. Youth Secretary Annual Report

Numbers have dropped a bit due to conflicting activities but we have riders on the waiting list and will be looking to start them soon, once the worst of the weather has passed.

We managed to hold coaching sessions over last winter but there were quite a few sessions which we had to cancel due to weather.

Partly as a result of this, and also to provide more progression opportunities, we have started a Monday evening turbo/roller session which will run through till the spring. This has been enjoyed by those coming along so far and we hope to build on this.

In the summer, we also held a couple of performance coaching sessions at Thainstone. This really focussed on developing skills at higher speeds. We'll aim to do more of this again this coming year.

We are also looking to build on the social side of the youth club and visit various locations – we've had some offers of support from parents so we'll hopefully take advantage of this.

We once again took part in the St Andrews parade which is one of our highlights every year. We loved seeing the massive crowds in the town centre.

7. Club document acceptance

There were no new club documents requiring acceptance.

8. Club strategy / outlook

The club strategy document has been refreshed and is available in the club documents folder. Of particular note:



To continue to grow the club, focusing on ladies/girls and youths and continue to offer a selection of rides and coaching sessions to suit a range of abilities.

Communication has always been a challenge and likely always will be. Pete is keen to try and make it as efficient as possible so that we can reach members with important updates. This will likely be via email in the most part though Spond can be used effectively for interim updates. A reminder that we have a webpage detailing how to contact the club via email but there is also a feedback option via the club portal, which is a good way of not only submitting feedback but tracking what the committee/officials are doing with it.

Post meeting note: during the evening, members commented on issues receiving club emails. Pete to organise a series of tests to receive feedback on this.

Pete provided more feedback from the club survey which was mostly all positive which is great considering there were some challenges regarding criticism earlier in the year, but it appears these are isolated cases. It is difficult to please everyone, but we are encouraged to see that this is recognised and appreciated through feedback.

50% of responders attended club rides at least once a week. This is good but we would like to see those numbers going up. Life is busy so members aren't always going to make the rides but seeing big numbers turn up is wonderful and helps the ride leaders split into pace groups much easier. We'll digest the findings of the rides in more detail but there were positive replies for the likes of safety and the social side, though unsurprisingly, questions on topics such as ride distance, speed and start time were all massively variable, showing that we cannot suit all.

The main feedback on the rides was the recognition of the benefits of the different speed groups. We agree and will always try and maintain this on a Wednesday and Saturday, as long as we have enough ride leaders/supervisors and enough riders!

Somebody mentioned a gravel route – this is something we have looked at in the past and are not against in future. We really need someone to lead this though so if you are interested, feel free to get in touch with your thoughts.

Route length was mentioned as well. We do like the idea of having a generally shorter route which can be extended for those who would like to go longer. This can be included when we can manage it.

There was also a comment about progression throughout the year i.e. building distance as the year goes on. This is really important for rider progression and to keep interest but we also have to consider those who may join the club throughout the year and/or those who may not want to increase the distance. However, we do hear this and will do what we can to provide different distances to suit the developing rider.

Regarding speed, the groups will be split as we mention. We are keen to bring back a training ride which will be at higher speed, so again, this would provide a progression opportunity for riders but we do need ride leaders to enable us to do this.

And on the flip side, we are really keen to have a slower ride. Unfortunately though, we need to have the ride leaders to look after this – again, if you are keen, do let us know.

There was helpful feedback on club events (e.g. trips away) so we will investigate and see what we can organise for those interested.

Thank you to everyone who responded and particularly those who left helpful and constructive suggestions and those leaving us messages of thanks. This really does help make the effort all worthwhile!



Remember that all the events we arrange do need volunteers to support. We have information available on our website for the various roles which might interest you – it is great fun and rewarding so if you can support, do let us know.

9. Club management system / member benefits / fee structure

Fees remain unchanged for 2023 with the only difference being a new direct debit yearly fee for the youth riders, which includes their coaching fee along with club membership.

We are continually reviewing member benefits. We did have one offer which has not yet materialised but we will keep trying. From April, we are adding Osprey Cycles and The Happy Sigh to the list though, as well as the existing offers from JG Ross, Chapel of Garioch post office, Total Endurance and OneLife iD. Keep an eye on the member welcome pack for details of all these, and any other ones we add.

We are going to be focussing on more use of the club management system this year. Our youths are using it more and we are going to investigate its use for club rides. Until such time as they improve the 2-way comms structure though, we will be sticking with Spond, but look out for more info on this. It's a great place to reach you with important information so do sign-in from time to time!

10. Committee

Pete thanked Chris for this support on the committee as he has now chosen to step down. There are several vacancies on the committee but critically, we do need a treasurer and youth secretary. Ideally, a social secretary and event secretary would be very useful. Pete also mentioned that while Kate remained as the club WPO, she is no longer directly involved in the club so a replacement is required. A backup WPO is also appropriate given the importance and additional training required.

Kay offered to support with the role of treasurer and Pete will follow-up with providing relevant access.

No other nominations were received 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
Covid Coordinator	Stuart (this role is not currently an active requirement)

11. Upcoming Rides and Events

Main one next is our start of season ride – Sun 26 March at 0900.

Club organised races include the Northboats road race on 25th May, Youth crit on 1 July (provisional) and time trial on 30th July (also non-standard regional championship). Volunteering opportunities for these will be advertised soon.



Any events you may be entering, please do let us know so we can promote it and/or coordinate entries.

We will once again look to organise two club time trials during the year.

Some of the most popular events you asked for via the survey include.

Club social evenings – we'll restart evening socials on Wednesdays

End of season party – we have got this social evening as part of AGM but we will look at what options may be suitable. We have organised things in the past including a club BBQ, kids party and other socials.

Maintenance classes – these have been popular before thanks to Mike, so we will discuss more of those again.

Other notable mentions were early season group riding practice and club away trips. We have looked at these before but will do so again.

As always, if you are able and/or keen to support with ideas or even better still, to support in the organisation of these, it would be very helpful.

12. Club awards

The 2022 club awards were presented by Pete who noted thanks to everyone who submitted nominations for this year's club awards.

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

A regular representative of the club at races with results improving all the time. Dedicated to develop himself and the youths in their racing, he is a worthy winner.

Volunteer of the Year – **John Simpson**

John is always one of the first to volunteer to support at a variety of events including marshalling and supporting at the club gazebo. He is always promoting the club in a positive way and has recently agreed to become a ride leader.

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 – **Jim Ross**

Jim has excellent awareness of all road users and his safety is never compromised. He provides clear briefings before rides and always looks out for everyone. His commitment to the Monday evening intro rides is to be commended.

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

Youth Rider of the Year – **Jack McCranor**

Jack has been inspirational throughout the year, always giving maximum effort and determination to develop his riding. He has progressed wonderfully and is a pleasure to have along, always demonstrating the qualities we look for in all our riders.

Spirit of the Club – **Mark Bate**

Mark is always positive and encouraging with nothing ever being too much trouble. He is willing to support as a ride leader whenever he is available.

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

Jacqueline has been a huge support to the club for years and has dedicated time to coordinate the efforts of the ride leaders. She regularly leads rides and is a trusted and



valued member of the committee. She has a positive attitude and is always trying to build and develop the club to become bigger and stronger but one that everyone feels welcome to be part of.

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

No items of AOB were raised.

