



TEN 2017 Annual General Meeting



MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 22, 2017

8:00PM

INVERURIE

MEETING CALLED BY	Pete Lowson
TYPE OF MEETING	Annual General Meeting
FACILITATOR	Pete Lowson
NOTE TAKER	Helen Arkwright
ATTENDEES	Pete Lowson, Matt Helme, Helen Arkwright, Mark Bate, Victor Johnston, John Simpson, Mike Reilly, Jacqueline Ross, Ross Anderson, Adrian Stewart, Trevor Hall, Lucy Ritchie, Kyle Mowbray, Steven Booth, Audra Booth, Wendy McLaren, Rob Kinghorn, Steven Sharp, Mike Farquhar, Mark Fraser, Andrew Flockton, Mike Lowson.
APOLOGIES	

1. Welcome and introduction to all attending the AGM from Pete L (Chairman), who introduced Helen A (secretary) and Matt H (Treasurer).
2. No actions from the previous AGM minutes, but Chair confirmed -
 - Ride leaders all now established, and chair passed on his thanks to all involved
 - Action camera has now been purchased, but requires helmet mount – Mark F offered to investigate.
 - Reminder that can join British Cycling when purchase club membership – offers 3rd party insurance and other benefits.

3. The chairman’s Annual Report

This year has been an important transitional phase for the club. The club has gone from a good sized club with new rides, to a fully established and rapidly growing club that offers a lot of different activities. We have become known more in the region and contributed to several events.

Membership

We currently have 81 members, of which 61 are also BC members, that’s up from 46 and 31 respectively. Joining BC can bring legal protection for you and 3rd party liability, as well as adding a voice to help with national cycling policy. Please note that club membership does not provide any legal cover or insurance, other than for club officials.

Rides

Building on from last year, the number of people coming along on our club rides has increased and we now have a ride format that appears to be working well, though we will be tweaking this – further details below. These rides wouldn’t be possible without the ongoing support of the ride leaders who have volunteered to take on the additional responsibility leading a group requires.

It is clear that the Wednesday ride has proved really popular. There have regularly been around 30 riders coming out enjoying the ride in different speed based groups. This has allowed a variety of abilities to all take part.

Last year we signalled the intention of getting all new riders to come along for a welcome ride before joining the other rides. This was both a way of introducing the riders to the club, and the club assessing their capabilities to ensure they fit safely into the other groups. It became apparent that holding this alongside the Weds ride wasn’t effective and hence we started up the Monday Welcome ride.

This has been really well supported by TEN ride leaders and we’re very appreciative of this. The Monday ride is crucial to establishing the safety message and group riding skills before joining the other groups. The ride is structured and at the slowest riders’ pace on the night. It is mandatory for all new riders, although it would suit any club members and we would encourage you to come along now and again – to support it, meet different people but also as a confidence booster or to build group riding skills.

The Thurs ride has been less popular, in part due to some of the regulars being unavailable or others taking part in racing, but it is a structured ride which is suitable for a variety of different speeds – just not beginners and generally the speed average will be above 25kph.

The weekend rides have continued, with the Saturday ride proving very popular. It has been well organised with a rota for the ride leaders. There has also been the establishment of two different length routes on a Sat. The standard Sat ride will be limited to maximum distance of around 75km with a small amount of climbing, unless there are specific targets riders are aiming for.

The evening rides have now stopped, but we are looking at the possibility of continuing the Wednesday ride as a night ride, when weather conditions allow. This won't suit everyone, but I feel confident there will still be demand. Watch your inboxes for details of this.

Further details of the rides below.

Vision

My vision for the future is to continue as the very social club we are and continue to welcome great members into the club, while expanding into other areas. We have wonderful group of people and the continued banter and friendships being formed is great to see.

We want to continue to grow and offer more and more to our members. As a result, I will be looking to an ambitious target of 150 members by next year's AGM and continue to strengthen our standing within the region. As well as an ambitious member target, I would also like to see us increasing the number of women taking part in cycling and coming along to our rides. We are at just under 25% women this year and I'd like to see this growing up towards 40%, which would be another 40 ladies – a big task but I think achievable. The committee will be tasked with looking for ways to achieve these goals and I'd encourage everyone to promote the club and cycling in general.

As the club gets bigger, there is always the risk of becoming unwieldy or losing our ethos, so it is really important to keep the structure we've worked hard to establish. Our current routines and structure are set up to be scalable, and as long as we are careful and handle new members correctly, this should not cause problems as the club grows.

Events

Next year, we plan to organise regional racing events - existing ones at first and then move on to creating our own one. The club is a social one, but the racing scene is popular and by assisting with these events, you can witness some great racing plus it helps raise our profile amongst the region – our club name has repeatedly been commented on as being 'the best in the country!!' The more well-known we are, the more influence we may have to bring events and new activities to the area.

Our first event is coming up next month with the District TT champs at Lochter. Colin Duncan is organising the event under our name, which will give us a good chance to learn how it all works.

Following requests, we are planning to start our own race series just for members next year. As yet the format is undecided, but we expect to have races – some standard time trials and some mixed events. However we will still remain very much focussed on the social elements of our club.

We would hope to have lots of support for the events we are organising/taking part in as without volunteers, these events cannot take place. We appreciate they are at weekends, and may impact on your own cycling on occasion, but it is rewarding and good fun.

Coaching/Training

There will be an opportunity to do some time keeping courses which we would like to support. If you are interested in this, please let us know – this will likely to be in early spring.

We will be looking at future training opportunities for our ride leaders and starting to consider coaching roles within the club and we're excited to announce a couple of initiatives based on this – more shortly.

We didn't have any sessions at the Grampian Transport Museum this year given other commitments, but this is something we are looking to do again soon. The sessions last year were very successful and proved a useful learning environment to improve group riding. In the meantime, all groups on the road should be ensuring they ride effectively together.

Turbo Training

It won't be too long till we have our turbo sessions again. These were a great hit over the winter, especially at the beginning but there is still room for more riders. It is a really good way of keeping the fitness going over winter and doesn't rely on being uber fit or fast, as you ride based on your own levels. Some of the feedback was that it could be moved a bit earlier in the year and finished earlier, but we have our slot at the hall booked. It is sometimes difficult for people to refocus after Christmas, but if you can keep it going, it makes a big difference to your whole year – regardless of level or aims.

Family biking

I just want to add another bit of thanks to Gillian and Jim McPhail for organising the great Haddo trips. I've not been able to make one in a while but from what I hear, adults on bikes are needed now – such is the pace of the kids! They're going to be looking to establish a more advanced trip to some of the trails, though we intend keeping the Haddo trips going. More on kids to come...

GIBR

The GIBR again proved popular and another amazing weather day. We were there with the club stand plus we manned a water station. More members came as a result of this and we are definitely going for more involvement next year.

Racing

We were also at the inaugural Tour Series in Aberdeen and along with Ythan and NETCO, were the only clubs to still be there by the end. Great event and we hope lots more of you can come along next year – perhaps even taking part.

While we remain, and always will be, a social club, we are going to be looking to establish a low key racing team for those wanting to take part. The group will aim for entering road races but also bring people on who may want to take part in TTs.

Achievements

There have been lots to mention and excellent progress by riders including Rob, Ross, Wendy, Pete C, Lynsey and Stevie to name just a few.

Loch Ness was once again the big attraction with regards to numbers and it was 3 groups of over 10 in each that took to the start – and fantastic times all round. We've also had great presence at KOM, Stonehaven and of course Ride the North and we'll look to choose some events nice and early next year to get them in your diaries – more to come.

I mentioned it at the BBQ but it would be rude not to mention the achievements by Kev, Jonny and Fraser. Huge kudos to all three of them and a wonderful way to support worthwhile charities.

Sponsorship

Thanks paid to Northboats for their continued sponsorship and contributions this year including our fantasy prizes, new club flags and BBQ which have been really fantastic.

4. Treasurer Annual Report

The treasurer summarised the club accounts - full details are available on request, however the club finances were summarised as follows:

Club funds are healthy, guiding principles of building a foundation with additional donation are working, looking forward to another year of good membership which will enable the continued growth of the club.

Will be aiming to invest some of club funds into training next year and will apply for match funding where we can.

Current Bank Balance	£2800
----------------------	-------

5. 2018 Committee

The Chairman has completed some work on writing specific roles for the committee members. Each member will have set responsibilities and will report back on those during committee meetings. There will be a change round in personnel this year and once again, thanks to all current members for their support and taking the club through this transitional phase.

Pete will continue in the Chairman role and Matt as Treasurer/Deputy Chairman, Biff is also going to continue to support our members out with the area and assist with event experience.

Nominations were then opened for a number of posts:

Secretary – Fraser Beattie
Coach – Jacqueline Ross
Events – Lucy Ritchie
Social – Trevor Hall
Welfare – Mark Fraser
General – Extra Cte member required, another female cte member would be welcomed

We will look to meet in the next month to run through the roles and get an action plan for the year ahead. Full minutes will be issued to members.

6. Club Ethos / Safety

I've mentioned it already, but to emphasise, we are very proud of our club ethos and care about safety, both from our own riding and also to encourage the safety message amongst all road users. As cyclists, or other minority road users, we will always draw criticism and 'abuse' but we should try and rise above that and educate those we can. Everyone has a right to use the roads and we must remember that. High profile incidents recently involving bikes v pedestrians so it's not all about cars v bikes.

Regarding our rides: we work hard to ensure these are as enjoyable as they can be and people are out riding with friends, but also welcoming to new riders.

The rides are primarily there to enable everyone to get out on their bikes, do a few miles and have a natter with others. However, the rides must be safe at all times and be considerate to all road users. The format of the ride, briefing and ride leaders are there to assist with this, however, it is up to everyone on these rides to ensure they are riding safely and responsibly. The groups should work well together in a close bunch, taking up minimal distance on the road and communicate any hazards in sufficient time. If groups are struggling to stay together, the leaders should be encouraging small organised splits so riders can still stay with those of similar pace, but also cuts down the hazard to drivers.

The social rides are exactly that. People to ride at a pace which is comfortable to their ability and enjoy a chat. They should be clear of the ride purpose before the ride and not have any surprises, including being able to accommodate any new riders to the group. Training rides are not meant to necessarily be fast rides, but designed with specific goals such as hill climbing or chain gang. We will be reassessing these over the winter and making further improvements for next year.

We would encourage all riders to introduce new people to the club and get them to come along, but remember that they must come on at least one welcome ride first. They also should be receiving the ride emails before they come, so everyone is aware of route/times/important info.

Be proud to wear the club kit as we have a good name and reputation – however, please be aware - it doesn't take a lot to change that.

If you have any complaints, or witness any poor (or good) examples of cycling/driving, please share with me and/or the committee. We will look in to any issues and deliver any safety messages if required.

Social media – a reminder that there is a change to our T&Cs which makes it clear about what to or not to put on social media or discuss on other media such as email or WhatsApp. Just be considerate to others and you won't go far wrong!

Finally, a reminder about our constitution and Highway Code and not to bring any activities into disrepute. Think about how others may view an activity before acting!

7. Coaching

As discussed above, we have some exciting and ambitious plans regarding training and coaching.

Ride Leaders:

Recognising that the Ride Leaders are a fundamental part of keeping core club activities safe and enjoyable the club plan to:

1. Hold a Ride Leaders group session later this year involving coffee, cake, discussion, and group riding with a coach the aim of which will be to ensure rides are executed safely and consistently.
2. Provide an opportunity for ride leaders to get level 1 and 2 British Cycling Ride Leader qualifications in early spring next year.
3. Use the winter period to further refine the Club Ride offering to meet member requirements.

We are also very keen to establish more youth involvement.

Club Coaching:

- It has always been an ambition of the club to have some qualified coaches able to put on sessions for kids and adults. Due to the levels of participation we feel we are now at the point where we can move this forward. As such the club plan to:

1. Put as many people through the British cycling level 1 coaching qualification early next season.
2. Use the winter period to define a club coaching offering with other local coaches.
3. Hopefully kick off kids coaching sessions next season.

In order to support the above the club will be seeking members committed to leading rides and those interested coaching to participate in these opportunities to continue the clubs aim to introduce cycling to more and more people.

This is a big step and will take a lot of commitment of both the club and some members. Kids are a big part of many of our lives and I've been frustrated that at each of the stalls we've had at events, people have asked about what we can offer for kids.

8. Upcoming Rides and Events

There is still the TT on the 8th of October for which we've had a lot of offers of assistance.

The end of season ride is currently pencilled in for the 28 or 29th of October. This is an opportunity to ride with different people and groups. Last year we had a great turnout in favourable weather. The groups splitting at Keig where faster riders can go over the Suie. The aim is for everyone to finish up at Ross's for lunch/cake.

Turbo to start at the beginning of November and we are considering a night ride throughout the winter. This is in addition to the MTB and Cx rides which will begin again.

Family party at Logie Durno for the end of November.

Next year we plan to get events in the calendar with plenty of notice. The British Cycling emails and the club calendar on the website will be used for updates.

Evening Socials - with a new social committee member there should be more social nights planned.

9. A.O.B.

KIT – Trevor Hall raised the issue about quality of some of the club kit – in particular the cycling shorts – not good quality for price and white not a good colour either. The sizing an issue too - sizes too large for some. Decided this was an issue for the Cte to address before the next kit order. May also look to have set dates for ordering kit, twice a year - eg in Feb for the new season and later in the year.

More information on Winter night rides was requested to which the Chairman responded: Essentially similar to Weds night ride with a 7:30 start, smaller groups will do a short loop. The rides will be risk assessed before start and ride leaders will assess lights, road conditions & weather etc, on the night of the ride. There is also the option to do reps of the John Sorrie road, or the new link road.

Any information about accessing the new AWPR before it opens?

Colin Allanach is in discussions about holding a TT ahead of road opening, so Pete will find out further information.

Bike maintenance

The course is likely to be held shortly. Mike Reilly to run the course. More information to follow.

Social media

A monthly newsletter is planned – please pass any pictures, stories, ideas, to Pete & members of the cte

Northboats

Mike from Northboats offered congratulations from the sponsors to the club and its continued success

10. New committee – The new committee will meet at the end of October

11. Meeting was declared closed.

Note: Any omissions, errors, request for additions or other business relating to the 2017 AGM should be brought to the attention of Pete L, Chairman.