



CYCLE CLIPS

October 2018

Newsletter Grampian
Cyclists' Touring Club
(Cycling UK Grampian)



Foreword

Of late there have been noises demanding a stronger and louder voice for cyclists in the North East of Scotland. In Grampian there are numerous clubs and groups enjoying cycling in the towns and surrounding country. All of them are run by volunteers. That may be their weakness. Now NESTRANS put itself forward and invited us this week to an open meeting in the RGU. (See report below)

Who pronounced the following wisdom?

There are two ways you can get exercise out of a bicycle:  You can overhaul it or you can ride it.

Most cyclists are more environmentally aware than most drivers. Discuss.

The three Burnbank Stones (near Cove)

They are being carved to show the village's jobs in Quarrying, Fishing and Agriculture. We presume this one shows agriculture. Or fishing? Beautiful!



Do you recognise these road users ?

These drivers, predominantly but not exclusively male, believe they are superior drivers, and that their car reflects their status, intelligence and wealth. Any restrictions on their driving - such as car parking regulations and charges, pedestrian and cyclist priorities, or speed limits, are seen as infringements of their freedom. (Anable in Road Safety News 2011 p. 1)
The author believes they are often seen in Scotland.

Extract from diary

Cycled home on the pitch-dark Deeside Way. Saw a strange greenish u-shaped light. Turned out to be a light carried by a big black Labrador, not on a leash. Next I saw a little red light. That was around the neck of a dachshund, not on a leash. Then I spotted a white shape with cats' eyes. That was a white cat, not on a leash. I don't mind animals not on leashes provided they carry lights. Except cats of course, they have built-in lights. (On the A93 I saw a young cyclist dressed in black without lights. I did take umbrage and asked him to tell his parents).

You wouldn't believe the welcome we received!!

Extracts from the invitation to ride the AWPR:

“ Our GoNorthEast **Welcome** team will be onsite *requesting* you to complete an onsite medical form that will be held by our Contracted Medical Supplier ”

“ Participants will undergo a security check and tickets will be inspected. Please note Terms & Conditions including a list of prohibited items “ (*Water Bottles?*)

Did ANYBODY cycle on the AWPR?

We were invited to ride on a bit of road on 9 September. As a cyclist you had to undergo a Health and Security test before you were allowed. Transport Scotland must have feared we would damage their precious road.

This AWPR was originally budgeted at £340 million and in the end cost us £700 million.

AWPR 60 years late

In the 1950s, George Kirkbride was the Director of Grampian Roads. He was a great cyclist who according to the P&J rode over 200,000 miles. In 1956 he proposed a “bypass” budgeted at £6 million. He should get a blue plaque.

Bells for bikes (again!)

A piercing bell is more likely to stand out from urban background noise than the human voice. Shouldn't bells be made compulsory?

Note from editor: bells are compulsorily fitted to bikes at point of sale, but can be removed as soon as you are on the road. Legislation passed by our own MPs, not by Europe.

Recently an experienced MP stood up in parliament to demand that bells should be compulsory on bikes. He didn't know ! Parliament decided years ago that they must be fitted to new bikes (but can be taken off again when outside the shop). What silly law is that?

DEBRETTS on Bells



Jo Bryant, an etiquette expert from Debrett's, said: "The towpaths and ex-railway lines are a lovely escape from the hustle and bustle of the roads and pavements of the city. They should be a tranquil and relaxing place to travel along.

"But it seems that some people are forgetting their manners and speeding past other people, or refusing to move out of the way. Here at Debrett's we hope that these top tips will be a gentle reminder to towpath users, and encourage a return to more polite and amicable behaviour".

Top Tip for Cyclists: warn of your arrival with two tings on your bicycle bell. Say a "thank you" when you pass at moderate speed.

Two tings only! ... No furious RingRingRingRing! ... And No Shouting!

Our Readership

This, our CTCGrampian Newsletter with no News, has a worldwide readership that stretches from Torphins to Kerala, Mumbai and the New Forest.

Cycle hire in Tarves!

The Tarves Cycle Hire will allow those keen to explore Haddo House and the grounds the chance to hire a bike and cycle from nearby Tarves.

The people involved with the Haddo House and Country Park Regeneration Project have arranged for bike hires to be available from the local heritage centre.

It is less than three miles from the village to Haddo, and would take around 15 to 30 minutes to cycle to.

P&J August 2018

Our non-resident Poet sent in an account of a ride in Lagrange, France. Some of it was torture:

A borrowed bike, a sunny day
The velo route our chosen way
Hoping just to have some fun
An easy ride beneath the sun.

Mais Zut Alors, a wheel is loose
This bike may be of little use
From Chile then with spanner new
Our friend did tighten up the screw.

Lunch was next, a rustic place
With ambience and gentle grace
Then back to work at pushing pedal
Each must get an honour medal

Saint Vit our goal, for à la gare
A train will bring us to our car
Courage mes braves, the last steep hill
Before we can at last sit still

Upon the train so smart and new
Besançon now, we change on to
The final train with some delight
We're home unscathed and in the light.
John Cambridge.



Notice seen near Newhills Church.
We didn't know about RADAR.

New Abbreviations

What is **CWA**? Cycling Without Age, an organisation set up by Ole Kassow in Copenhagen. Marvellous, we should start one..... Or Crime Writers Association?

What is **GCP**? Grampian Cycling Partnership, set up in the Sir Ian Wood Room of the RGU (Robert Gordon University) during a grand meeting called by NESTRANS (North East of Scotland Transport Partnership), on 26 September 2018 attended by about 150 cycling people among whom ten CTC (Cyclists Touring Club) aka Cycling UK* Grampian members and addressed by Emma Roberts of Cycling UK* and many other worthies.

We hope for and expect great initiatives from the GCP and must support them wherever we can.

(*United Kingdom)

What is an EcoHero in the AGGC?

Every year the Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce meets to discuss outstanding work by the affiliated organisations and businesses. This year CTC Grampian may get a look-in: one of our members, Peter Stewart, has been put forward for the title **EcoHero**. The person or the business which shows most concern for the environment is awarded this prize. There are at least two reasons why Peter deserves this award. One is transport which in Peter's case is most often by bike and one of his employees uses an electric bike. Another reason for the honour is that the material used in the eradication of pests does no harm to the environment. Congratulations Peter.

Overheard during coffee stop

Three friends went for a bike ride to Glen Doll. They took their bikes in the car. After arrival in Glen Doll, they noticed they had only 5 wheels between three bikes.

In the Coffee House

On last Sunday 29 September a meeting was called for **all** Cycling UK Grampian cyclists. It was scheduled to last from 10:00 till 16:00 hrs. (*Rather lengthy, ed.*)

The Try Cyclists (5 of us) went there at about 11:00 when the real proceedings were not yet underway. We were made most welcome because there were only about fifteen people, so we made up a quarter of the attendees. At the coffee counter we had to say a magic word 'Mikey' and the cappuccino came free! Must try again next week.

We were subjected to more Power Point Presentations, same as in the RGU meeting. Unfortunately your editor had to leave at about 12:00 so can't report on outcomes.

(Why where there so few people? Why didn't we know? Why were our Try Cycling bikes the only bikes near the Coffee House? Does Cycling UK know we have a thriving club with 5 or 6 different rides every week?).

The next issue of Cycle Clips will be published in January 2019. Any comments and contributions to Gerard by 15 December at 01224 734799 or to gerardvlaar@yahoo.com