



Annual General Meeting

The AGM will take place on **Wednesday 25 November 2009 at 7.30pm** in the Friends' Meeting House, Elmbank Crescent, Charing Cross, Glasgow. At this meeting we will:

1. Consider the work done by, or under the auspices of, the Committee.
2. Approve the accounts.
3. Appoint an independent auditor.
4. Fix the membership fees for the coming year.
5. Consider any resolutions submitted by the Committee or Members (to be received by the secretary at least one week prior to the meeting – please send to the address below).
6. Elect Members to serve on the Committee.

Please come and demonstrate your support for our campaigns to improve cycling in Glasgow!

Local news, routes and facilities

Skyride Glasgow – Go Bike had a stand on Glasgow Green for this event on Sunday 23 August. It was well attended despite dismal weather and the stand was busy throughout the event.

Bigman 2 – An estimated 4000 visitors attended the second Bigman event held on the Forth and Clyde Canal at Maryhill Locks on Sunday 20 September. Go Bike and Sustrans shared a stand, which was again kept busy. The event was organised to raise publicity for the project to build a bridge at Stockingfield Junction on the canal in Maryhill, where the branch to Port Dundas joins the main line. Andy Scott's 30 m high Bigman sculpture will appear to hold the bridge aloft.

Cycle route from Prince Edward Street to Victoria Road – Glasgow City Council has advised that the Prince Edward Street cycle track at Victoria Road in Govanhill will *not* now be blocked by a relocated bus stop. The bus stop will be positioned so cycles still have access to the side road.

Access to Kelvingrove Park from Kelvin Way – Go Bike members have been in contact with Glasgow City Council over restricted access from Kelvin Way to Kelvingrove Park as a result of construction work for a new school. The former access road is currently constricted by a fence, leaving only a narrow passage for both pedestrians and cyclists. A better solution to the problem is expected to be implemented shortly.

Routes around Arran – Arran Bike Club has produced a cycle map of on- and off-road routes around Arran. It can be downloaded from <www.arranbikeclub.com> along with route descriptions.

Dobbies Loan underpass between Spiers Wharf and Cowcaddens – This will be closed for about seven months to permit construction works for the Garscube Landscape Link. Details are on the Go Bike web site.

Local Sustrans routes – The local part of the Forth and Clyde Canal is now signposted as NCN 754 on the National Cycle Network. The complete route goes from Clydebank to the Falkirk Wheel, after which it follows the Union Canal to Edinburgh.

NCN 756 is another recently signed route, which runs from East Kilbride to Glasgow. It leaves East Kilbride on the route of a former railway line, then follows alongside the main A 749 road between Nerston and Cathkin. Once in Rutherglen, minor roads are followed through Overtoun Park to Shawfield Bridge, across from Richmond Park. The Polmadie Bridge at Glasgow Green on this route has been surface-dressed to secure its surface for another few years.

Details of these and other signed routes can be found on the Go Bike web site.

Footbridge over the Forth and Clyde Canal at Westerton – East Dunbartonshire Council is to refurbish the deck of this bridge, which will be given a non-slip coating.

Connect2 in South Lanarkshire – This scheme connects the communities of Larkhall and Hamilton and links Strathclyde Country Park and Chatelherault Country Park. Work has already been completed at the northern end of the scheme near Strathclyde Country Park. The next section to Chatelherault Country Park is currently under construction and designs are being considered for the route through the park itself. (From www.sustrans.org.uk)

Strathkelvin Way to join the National Cycle Network – Sustrans is beginning to look at the Strathkelvin Way, a traffic-free path running from Kirkintilloch to Strathblane, in partnership with Stirling, East Dunbartonshire and North Lanarkshire councils. The aim is to bring this route into the National Cycle Network. The proposed route would link National Route 754 along the Forth and Clyde Canal to National Route 7 via the West Highland Way. (From www.sustrans.org.uk)

National and international news

Scottish girls encouraged to get on their bikes – Sustrans Scotland has been awarded £230,000 to encourage pupils aged 9 to 16 to cycle to school at least once a week. This two year pilot project will work particularly with girls as the main target group and will focus on the transition years from primary to secondary school. Dedicated cycling officers will work with four secondary schools and their feeder primary schools in Perth and Edinburgh starting in September 2009. (From www.sustrans.org.uk)

Sustrans National Route 76 – Sustrans have completed the coastal route between Edinburgh and Berwick-upon-Tweed. This offers an alternative to National Route 1, which goes inland via Innerleithen. (From www.sustrans.org.uk)

Cycle to Work Guarantee – The UK Government has launched this plan to encourage more people to commute by bike. Employers who sign up are committing to providing their staff with safe bike storage, changing and bike repair facilities, cycle training and the *Cycle to Work* scheme. Transport Secretary Andrew Adonis said “If proper facilities were more widely available, I believe far more people would cycle to work. At present only 3% do so. We could double or treble that figure with proper bike storage and changing facilities and safe cycle routes.” (From www.ctc.org.uk)

MPs call for ban on cyclists who ride bikes on pavements – Cyclists should be made to obey the rules of the road and prevented from riding on pavements as part of a package of measures intended to improve safety, a report by a Commons committee has found. The Committee of Public Accounts also urged a wider take-up of speed restriction measures such as road humps, speed cameras and 20 mph zones to make roads friendlier to cyclists and other ‘vulnerable’ groups, including pedestrians and children.

A Scottish Government spokesman said: “Latest statistics show Scotland has made significant progress in reducing fatalities on our roads, with levels at their lowest for more than 50 years. This is a UK report and cycling injuries in Scotland are 34% lower than England and Wales.” (From www.heraldscotland.com)

Bike blog: The world’s worst cycle lanes – The *Guardian* newspaper has launched this blog on their web site <www.guardian.co.uk> to complement the Warrington Cycle Campaign’s book *Crap Cycle Lanes*. See also *Cycle Facility of the Month* at <www.warringtoncyclecampaign.co.uk>.

Royal award for designer of the Brompton folding bicycle – Andrew Ritchie has been honoured by the Duke of Edinburgh at Buckingham Palace for his lifelong obsession. After collecting the Prince Philip Designer's Prize, Mr Ritchie said he was not finished yet and was still thinking about how to make the bike lighter. (From news.bbc.co.uk)

Bicycles instead of bus passes – Manchester City Council is to give £180 to each secondary school pupil who lives more than three miles from his or her school, instead of a bus pass, so they can travel by bike. The payment will probably take the form of a bike voucher. As part of the deal the recipient will need to undertake cycle training. A similar scheme is under consideration in Liverpool. (From www.cyclenation.org.uk)

Cycle rides 2009–2010

Regular, easy-paced rides are held on the first Sunday of each month, starting at 1000 from the north end of Bell's Bridge in Glasgow unless otherwise stated. Please bring a note of the Go Bike phone number 07932 460093 with you in case of problems.

Sunday 6 December 2009 – Gleniffer Braes

Heading out via the Waulkmill Glen and Balgray Reservoirs, and crossing a former railway viaduct in Barrhead, before climbing up the Fereneze Hills. Stopping at the Gleniffer Braes viewpoint, then returning to Pollok Park for something to eat.

Sunday 3 January 2010 – Garscube Estate and Ruchill Park

Redressing the southern bias in recent rides, taking the Kelvin Cycleway northwards to Dawsholm Bridge and a new path into Garscube Estate. This ride then loops around through Summerston to join the Forth and Clyde Canal briefly to Ruchill Park. After a visit to the flagpole viewpoint, return to the West End for something to eat. Paths and quiet roads.

Sunday 7 February 2010 – Renfrew Ferry

A shorter winter ride along the Paisley cycle route as far as Cardonald, then to Renfrew for the ferry to Yoker. Return into Glasgow along the Forth and Clyde Canal to Lock 27 in Anniesland for a pub lunch. Mainly on minor roads and paths, and a footbridge with steps and wheeling ramps.

Sunday 7 March 2010 – Northern Parks

A 20 mile tour of half a dozen of the main parks on the north side of the river, as well as one of Glasgow's smallest parks, some urban sheep farming, an unlikely castle, two sets of homes intended for the future, and Glasgow's shortest cycle lane! Ending up in Glasgow Green for lunch at the People's Palace. Mainly paths and minor or secondary roads, plus two short sets of steps.

Sunday 4 April 2010 – Hamilton and Crossford Circle

A circular tour of Lanarkshire parkland and countryside, starting from Hamilton, taking in the Dalzell Estate and Murdostoun Castle Estate on the way to Crossford. After lunch, return to Hamilton on country lanes via Stonehouse. There are some steps at a couple of locations on this route.

Catch 1024 train from Glasgow Central Low Level to Hamilton Central (Balloch to Motherwell train), meet Hamilton Central station at 1050.

Sunday 2 May 2010 – Finlaystone Estate and Lyle Hill

An alternative route to Greenock leaving NCN 75 at Paisley, to head on country lanes and some rougher tracks via Linwood Moss, Houston and Langbank to the Finlaystone Estate. After lunch, continue to Greenock mainly via the waterfront to finish up with a climb to the top of Lyle Hill to take in the view. Return to Glasgow by train.

Suggestions for future rides are always welcome!

For other organised rides in the Glasgow area see CTC Glasgow, while for Edinburgh see Spokes and for Ayrshire see CTC Ayrshire.

Meetings

The next Go Bike meeting will be the AGM at 1930 on Wednesday 25 November 2009 in the Friends' Meeting House, 38 Elmbank Crescent, Charing Cross, Glasgow, G2 4PS. Directions can be found on the web site. Three or four meetings per year are held, on the last Wednesday of a month: see the web site for dates. Suggestions for topics to discuss or for speakers to invite would be welcome.

The current committee of Go Bike is Peter Hayman (Convenor), John Davies (Vice Convenor) and Andy Preece (Treasurer).

Could all members please pay their annual subscriptions for 2010, which fall due at the AGM? Use the form below or make a donation on a ride.

Glasgow Cycle Map

The current edition was produced by Go Bike in association with Spokes Maps and was published in late 2007. It is available for £4.95 from Go Bike; in most good cycle shops; by sending a cheque for £4.95 made payable to 'SPOKES' to: Spokes Maps, St Martin's Church, 232 Dalry Road, Edinburgh, EH11 2JG; or online at <edinburghpaths.info/spokesmaps.htm>.

Cycling leaflets

Go Bike has supplies of free leaflets from Glasgow City Council and others. If you would like a selection please send a C5 stamped, addressed envelope to the address below. Leaflets include the Loch Lomond cycle route, Clyde Coast routes, Paisley and Cumbernauld cycle routes, and the Critical Mass ride.

Yahoo group

Sign up to the Go Bike News email group to keep in touch with cycling news, views and events. You are unlikely to be deluged with messages! For more information see www.gobike.org.

Contact us

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Join Go Bike

Membership of Go Bike is by donation, which covers the cost of campaigning, newsletters, meetings and the web site. Please send your donations to the above address.

Name.....

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I enclose a membership donation of £.....