



2010 Autumn

Go Bike News

Annual General Meeting with Matthew Kerr, GCC, and Sandra White, MSP Thursday 25 November 2010 at 1930

The meeting will take place in the Friends' Meeting House, 38 Elmbank Crescent, Charing Cross, Glasgow, G2 4PS. It will start with discussions about cycling issues in Glasgow led by two guests.

Matthew Kerr has been cycling since age 13 and became a keen racer with the Fullarton Wheelers. He has represented Craigton ward on Glasgow City Council since 2007, revived the council's Bicycle Users' Group, and currently chairs the Glasgow Cycling Forum (see report below).

Sandra White represents Glasgow in the Scottish Parliament for the SNP. A keen walker, she is interested in all forms of transport and hosted a Transport Summit in Partick earlier this year to get people's views on the best ways of getting around Glasgow and outlying areas. She would like to see cycling involved in the health agenda, to improve general awareness of cycling routes and to reduce the misuse of cycle facilities.

The discussion will be followed by the brief, formal meeting. The agenda is:

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 at the end).
6. Elect Members to serve on the Committee.

We encourage all members to attend and take part in the discussion – put this date in your diaries *now*. The Go Bike constitution allows for up to twelve committee members so please volunteer! Specifically we need a new treasurer and wish to recruit a membership secretary to help us with a drive for new members.

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

Glasgow Cycling Forum

This is proving a solid basis for exchanging news and views on cycling and its infrastructure in Glasgow.

- Membership is growing with Development and Regeneration Services (DRS) to be brought in. The cycling provision for the College Lands and Laurieston developments will be examined.
- Glasgow's innovative use of two-way, segregated cycle lanes, associated with Connect2 and the East End Access Routes, was discussed. Go Bike had a site visit with the Senior Project Manager from Land and Environmental Services (LES) to look at concerns raised by members.
- Allan Maclean, Glasgow LES Cycling Officer, outlined the various sources of funding for cycling. The City Council itself doesn't fund cycling other than paying for the LES Cycle Unit. It is not known how the proposed Glasgow Strategic Plan for Cycling is to be financed. There are several Glasgow City Councillors with an interest in cycling who could make a big difference if they could have a unified voice.

- Glasgow City Council is considering whether to join the Bike to Work scheme.
- Allan Maclean gave an overview of the GCF members' ride around the site of the new Southern General Hospital. This was arranged to discuss the best use of the funds being made available for active travel to the hospital by NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board.
- Go Bike is concerned about the loss of Advance Stop Lines (ASLs) with procedures, funding and priorities as issues in getting improvements (see item below).

Bike Club comes to Glasgow

Bike Club is a new initiative in the UK, led by a consortium of organisations including CTC, Youth Scotland, UK Youth and ContinYou. Already a success in 8 towns and cities in England, the concept has now been rolled out into Scotland thanks to funding from ASDA's Pedal Power campaign. The main aims are to:

- Encourage children and young people to use cycling as a means of transport so they can take part in more activities beyond the school day.
- Make cycling an important part of young people's lives in whichever way they choose – as recreation, sport, exercise, a 'green' form of transport – and just for fun!
- Help children and young people to discover the freedom that cycling brings.

Volunteers are essential to the success of this youth development project. If you are interested in learning more or have an idea for a potential Bike Club please contact Victoria Leiper (Bike Club Officer in Glasgow) for further details. Email victoria.leiper@bikeclub.org.uk or call 0776 640 3220.

Local routes and facilities

Bring back our Advance Stop Lines! – Go Bike is working to get numerous Advance Stop Lines (ASLs) in Glasgow reinstated. A number of ASLs have disappeared or have bits missing due to patching and resurfacing, or even just wear and tear. While maintenance crews are meant to note the existing markings and reinstate them on completion of work, this hasn't always happened and we find missing ASLs all over the city. There are also numerous ASLs around Glasgow where the original installation was never completed. If you know of ASLs where work is required to complete or reinstate them, please get in touch.

Copenhagen style cycle track in Bridgeton – Glasgow City Council has started statutory consultation on the 'Copenhagen style' cycle track it proposes on James Street and London Road in Bridgeton. This segregated cycle track will link to the Commonwealth Games site at Parkhead as part of the Smarter Choices Smarter Places project.

Shakespeare Street cycle track – this popular route alongside Maryhill Shopping Centre has reopened after a protracted resurfacing. The link forms part of an important link between the Kelvin Cycleway and the Forth and Clyde Canal. Go Bike fought hard to get this link as part of the Maryhill Road Route Action Plan in the 1990s, when the Council intended to make the road purely one way.

Allandale – A new cycle path will be installed near Allandale linking the B816 to the Forth and Clyde Canal at Cumbernauld Road. Previously access to the canal was gained halfway along a sliproad to the A80, but since this will become a motorway sliproad, a new access path will be provided linking right onto the B816. This will be of use to cyclists coming from Abronhill and Cumbernauld along Walton Road.

Polmadie Burn – A new bridge has been installed across the Polmadie Burn in Richmond Park, allowing cyclists to use the riverside path to Polmadie Bridge. The path had been shut for some time.

National and international news

Scottish investment sees cycle usage increase – A report from Sustrans and the Scottish Government shows that use of the National Cycle Network in Scotland has increased by 32% in three years. About a third of users were new or returners to cycling. It was estimated that the path on Glasgow Green saves 116 tonnes of CO₂ per year by reducing car travel. (From www.sustrans.org.uk)

Cycle to Work Scheme – This seems to have survived the spending cuts. However, HMRC have revised the 'fair market guidance' for the value of a bicycle at the end of a year to 25% of its purchase price (it was sometimes as low as 5%). This reduces the savings but for many people they remain highly worthwhile. (From www.bikebiz.com)

Scottish speed cameras reduce fatalities – Government statistics show that deaths and serious injuries near speed cameras have fallen by 56% compared with rates before the cameras were installed. (From www.cyclingscotland.org)

Mintel report on Cycling – Here are some of the findings from their 'market intelligence' report on bicycles.

- 34% of adults in the UK owns a bike, but this is much higher (51%) among those aged 35–44. Cycle ownership is strongly related to socioeconomic status, with 42% ownership among senior and middle-ranking professionals, declining to 17% among those in long-term dependence on the state.
- 12% of adults cycles regularly (at least once a week) with 6% cycling most days. Males are much more likely to cycle regularly than females (16% male, 8% female). Regular cycling is closely related to age: 18% of 15–24 year olds are regular cyclists, declining to 2% among those aged 75+.
- Rates of cycling most days are much higher among those who read broadsheet newspapers (12%), people who have received higher education (10%) and those who shop at Waitrose (11%).

(From www.ctc.org.uk)

Cycle rides 2010–11

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 with you in case of problems: 07932 460093.

Sunday 7 November 2010 – Canal and Castle Tour

A tour taking in the Paisley Canal and Johnstone Castle, as well as some of the countryside nearby, before heading into Johnstone for something to eat.

Sunday 5 December 2010 – Glasgow Parks Tour

A mystery tour of parks and sights around Glasgow, mostly on quiet roads and various paths, ending up in Glasgow Green for food and refreshments.

Sunday 12 December 2010 – Airdrie–Bathgate Cycle Path Reopening

Meet 1030 at Airdrie Station (0945 train from Glasgow Queen Street Low Level station) for a ride to Bathgate and return.

Sunday 2 January 2011 – Happy New Glasgow!

A tour of new, recent and proposed infrastructure projects around Glasgow, ending up in the West End for lunch.

Sunday 6 February 2011 – Southern City Tour

A round trip taking in the parks and suburbs of the south side including a visit to the result of Go Bike's campaign for a contraflow cycle lane on Netherlee Road. Lunch in Shawlands.

Suggestions for future rides are always welcome!

A page for past rides has been added to the Go Bike website: see <www.gobike.org/ridespast.php>.

For further organised rides in the Glasgow area see CTC Glasgow, for Ayrshire see CTC Ayrshire, for Edinburgh see Spokes, and for relaxed weekend rides in Scotland and Northern England, try Mellow Velo.

Weekend trip 2010

Ten cyclists rode along NCN route 7 from Carlisle to Ayr over the Fair Weekend, undeterred by an atrocious weather forecast. The start was marred by punctures and missing signs but the group experienced only one downpour on the way to Urr Lodge, an excellent private hostel near Castle Douglas. The second day's route was along the Solway coast to Newton Stewart (Minnigaff Youth Hostel), giving fine views of Wigtown Bay. The third day was the wettest and offered no refreshment in the sparsely populated countryside between Glen Trool and Maybole. The final push over the Carrick Hills gave a welcome sight of Ayr. An off-road section of cycle track took the group into the town along the seafront. This would normally be thronged with day-trippers on a Glasgow Fair Monday but on this occasion it was deserted!

Thanks to Douglas Bingham for organising the ride.

Meetings

The next Go Bike committee meeting will be the AGM on Thursday 25 November in the Friends' Meeting House, 38 Elmbank Crescent, Charing Cross, Glasgow, G2 4PS. The agenda is shown on the front page and directions can be found on the web site. Three or four meetings per year are held on the last Thursday of a month. Suggestions for topics to discuss or for speakers to invite are always welcome.

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

Could all members please pay their annual subscriptions for 2011, 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

Go Bike Strathclyde Cycle Campaign
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G4 9LP

Phone: 07932 460093
Email: campaigns@gobike.org
Web: www.gobike.org

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 and make cheques payable to 'Go Bike – Strathclyde Cycle Campaign'.

Name.....

Address.....

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Email.....Phone.....

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

I wish to purchase a Glasgow Cycle Map at £4.95

New members – How did you hear about Go Bike?.....