

CTC – DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY MEMBER’S GROUP

SECRETARY’S REPORT TO THE AGM: 18th OCTOBER 2014

The D&G Group membership list currently stands at 223, a jump of near 10% on last year’s figure of 206.

As most if not all of you will know the most significant event for me in this last year has been moving from Dumfries to Louth in Lincolnshire and setting up home with my partner Jane. I managed to maintain the regular ride lists (Discovery and Sunday Rides) up to early July, including the by now traditional rides we have organised as part of the Spring Fling event at the end of May. I think these were the last D&G CTC rides I took part in. After this my contribution to the programme fell away, but I was pleased that rides have been kept going, at least in the sense of members joining together to ‘get out there’. I would especially like to thank Dougie for his work in the East, and Ted and Bob for efforts in the West.

Sally Hinchcliffe was again instrumental in organising Cycling Dumfries Family Rides over the summer, based out of Dock Park in Dumfries, under the CTC umbrella and with help from CTC Members. There were 8 rides, the largest attracting some 16 riders. A good show and, as with Ted’s Port William Club, much in the spirit of using our resources to foster cycling through getting adults and children new to pedalling out on their bikes!

Some of our Members (lead ably, as usual, by Sally wearing her Cycle Dumfries hat) have also been much involved in scrutinising and critiquing the travel plans for the new DGRI at the A75/Garroch Loaning junction near Dumfries. Apart from fighting the corner for cycling access the development affects the CTC Route up the Glen Road, one of our prime westerly quiet routes out of town. I don’t know if winning is possible, but we’re battling!

The annual lunch in January was again at the Laurie Arms and was well attended (about 20) and enjoyed: This seems to be turning into the favoured venue.

I’ll leave it to Ted to describe the Stewartry Sportive in July (its new date). But I too would like to thank again our helpers, especially the Marshals and those who worked the Feed Stations. This is becoming perhaps our pivotal event of the year, and a key fund-raiser.

As mentioned above I have for personal reasons moved to Lincolnshire (now cycling with the Louth and Grimsby group) but, having taken delivery of the colourful D&G kit, continue to wear it even perhaps a little out of area!! It attracts attention – of the several Lincs & other group clothing I have seen recently the D&G kit is by far the most attractive. I would certainly encourage a second order of this quality Endura kit.

The Future of the Kirkpatrick Macmillan Rally!?

As many of you will know this Rally is held on alternate years based at the Barnsoul Caravan Site near Shawhead, about 10 miles from Dumfries, usually over the end of May Bank Holiday weekend. It’s been running for at least 20 years, more I think. It’s chronologically due again in May 2015. It’s a very enjoyable event typically attended by 60-70 cyclists, most of who stay on site.

Constitutionally the KMR is actually a CTC Scotland event – indeed it was running before there was a CTC D&G Member Group!! Historically the two key organisers were John Taylor (who

lived near CD) and Peter Hawkins (based in Edinburgh). Peter handled the bookings and John organised matters locally. When John died in 2009 I essentially took over his role (somewhat abruptly about a week before the 2009 Rally, when he was too ill to continue) while Peter continued with the bookings.

For the 2011 and 2013 Rallies I worked to spread the organisation wider within the D&G MG (and Committee): I was keen to avoid the organisational vacuum created when John died – my pickup in 2009 was chaotic, to put it mildly.

But now we have a dilemma.

1. The Rally is based near Dumfries and, though much of the setting up is by phone, email and correspondence, there are always a few things that need personal negotiation and checking.
2. At the time of the Rally itself we do need on-site resources for setting up (the tent, for example), reception/registration, leading rides (lead rides are more popular than Route Cards), running the evening entertainments at the meals (in Shawhead Hall) and generally sorting those minor issues that arise during an event. [Fortunately, since Barnsoul changed ownership and insisted on direct pitch booking through them, we no longer need to keep track of attendees and monies from that aspect].
3. The Centre of Gravity (!) of the D&G Committee has tended to move west and the on-site organisation is now logistically difficult, and getting expensive travel wise. With my move South this leaves a serious hole in the local organisation.
4. There have been changes recently that we need recognise:-
 - a. Sadly Nigel Marsh, who very ably stencilled the KMR sweatshirts and T-shirts finally succumbed to cancer last month.
 - b. The Bicycle Museum collection at Drumlanrig was sold earlier this year, and the museum is now closed.

The KMR is a very enjoyable and worthwhile event, one of the handful of Rallies in Scotland and perhaps the best of them! I for one am unwilling to let the Rally die for lack of interest in D&G. I am very willing to handle the pre-Rally organisation but we need at least one or two more or less Dumfries or CD based members willing to help with the Rally itself, and local business.

To put it bluntly, either we need to reform a KMR Organising Group more or less Dumfries based, or we need to stop the event. I'll also mention that the substantial funds in the KMR accounts revert to CTC-S should the Rally fold – D&G has no call on them!!

Mike Gray, October 2014