

# Stonehaven Cycling Club

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## Annual General Meeting

### Invercarron Resource Centre

Wednesday 30th May 2018 8:00pm

### Chairmans Report

I think it is fair to say the club enjoyed another good year, with a few growing pains creeping in. Like human nature this is only natural with rapid growth, such as experienced by the club the past years.

A true success of the club which gets stronger each passing year is the rich community spirit that exists within it. I've been part of many other clubs and this is not something that is common to all, and certainly not something we want to lose. Mo Howard noted in an email to me when I asked about some of the annual highlights and one of the things that was special to her was the number of new cycling friends she continues to make. I really do think this is one thing I'm sure you can all relate to. If not well at least now you know you have the opportunity to make one friend in the club. I'll give you Mo's email address later!

Firstly, I want to thank all the committee for their efforts and support over the last year.

Repeating what I said last year...

Club's like ours rely heavily on the goodwill and free time of a team of individuals to put in place and maintain high the high standards we see and now expect from the club. With family and work commitments you can never expect everyone to have the same capacity to devote to the club all the time, hence the need for strength and depth and a team who roll up their sleeves and get on with it.

The committee is a close knit, well balanced group, all with something different to offer: some have very strong opinions, some offer a rational and logical mindset while there are even a few steady influencers.

Something we all have in common is a passion for cycling, a will to see things down right and ultimately we have fun and don't take ourselves too seriously. That's a bit of an advertisement for the proceedings to follow!

After terrific service to the club I would like to thank and note the efforts of the following individuals who have tendered their resignations from the committee:

Nicola Laurenson, Social Convener

Davie Morrison, Vice Chairman

Mo Howard Training Coordinator

Jill Greenlees, Treasurer.

Nicola has been there with us from the start. She has been a key figure all the way through. Social rides, gin tasting, beer and food tasting, beer festival sportive and who can forget the only club Ceilidh -what a night that was. We long for the next one, though we did try the following year!

Davie Morrison, what you see is what you get. No airs and graces, matter of fact! I must say this will be missed. He has established a cult following with his turbo sessions. I'm hoping he will keep that going. I've not been but if I sit on the turbo with my garage door open I can hear him from the community centre. It's a bit like a military fitness spin class.

Mo brings a tremendous amount of energy, enthusiasm and passion to everything she does, and this was present in abundance in her time on the committee. She will always have had some part to play in anything the club organised.

Whether it be sorting out turbos, filling goodie bags, scoping fob cards options, hosting a bbq, she was on hand. Definite highlights have been the velodrome trip and poor Tevor Ward from Cycling weekly is only just recovered now after the cycling back from Finzean farm shop on the Guy Fawkes outing!

Jill Greenlees, started the year with us but unfortunately due to work commitments had to give it up.

I'd like to especially thank Chris Jones for stepping into the breach and helping us out to this point where we have a final set of accounts for the year.

Another person I have not yet mentioned, because she is not disappearing completely is Emma. Emma has decided to give up her role as Secretary.

Emma has been influential from the very start. I set up the Facebook group on that first Sunday night we discussed the club slightly inebriated and by the Monday teatime Emma had found us a home for Turbo's. Since then she has worked tirelessly to make this club what it is. The members only see maybe 20% of the effort she puts in. You are assured of good counsel from Emma. She is away to take her drive and passion to help out another important club in the

town, the Sea Cadets. I'm pleased to say Emma will still be keeping her hand in with the club committee, albeit from the back benches!

I'd also like to thank everyone who has helped organize club rides, lead groups, manned the club tent, marshal at events, whatever. Your support is welcome and appreciated.

Before looking at some of the highlights I want to focus on safety. In the last year we have seen a number of members involved in several nasty incidents. At the weekend we had a club member involved in an incident on the Cairn O'mont challenge and a Desside Thistle member is in a serious condition in the Queen Elizabeth hospital in Glasgow following a bad crash in the Tour Of The Highlands, which a number of us attended. We have also had a number of reported incidents from members of the public since the start of the Wednesday Cycle.

Can I please ask all club to take the safety of yourself and fellow riders seriously when out on the road. Most often it is common sense. Ride sensibly and to your limits, be courteous to other road users, no matter how frustrated you might feel at times. If there is an incident or near miss with another road user get the details if you can and report it.

We have run a first aid training session for cyclists just last, which we must thank Dave Howard for, who himself has been involved in a serious accident since then. Having basic first aid training is invaluable. However, it deals with the some of the consequences, it's better to avoid putting yourself at danger in the first place.

So to some of the highlights from the last year:

- Membership numbers are the highest they've been around 250. That's despite the number of non-renewals still sitting around the 100 mark, similar to last year.
- Turbo sessions were well attended, particularly the Thursday night session.
- The summer mid-week rides last year were well attend and they have started off well again this year in terms of numbers. A number of new faces, particularly in the beginners group. There was also a good turnout at the Welcome to the Club event prior to the season start.
- The numbers were decent for a period after the Guy Fawkes social ride but it has been quite mixed since. This is something the club needs to look at to improve.
- In total the club has raised over £1,200 for our MND our nominated charity for the last year.

We are hoping to take that to a new level with the Strive, which hopefully most of you will have seen in the press.

- The Guy Fawkes social ride had a tremendous turn out and was given brilliant press by Cycling Weekly. It was the biggest of the club rides they'd attended. Another piece of kudos for the club! The event raised well over £300 for our annual nominated charity.
- Other notable charity events supported by the club include Ride the North, the recent Pedal for Pillar event and who can forget the hunt for Jim Broon's farm at the charity ride we organized with the Rotary Club.

- As always the Beer Festival Sportive was very well supported by helpers and riders.
- Across all those event members have raised thousands for charity this year.
- The Tour Series was again supported well by the club and several members made the podium. Well done
- Ali Cameron, Chris Palmer and Myles Woodward competed in the Paris Grand Fondo posting very respectable results. We need a few more racing!
- This past weekend was busy with members taking part in the Cairn O' Mount Challenge, 3 Pistes and the Tour of the Highlands, which all but one managed to complete –me being the one!
- March saw a big turn-out of members at the Velodrome for a track session. This was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone and I have no doubt that will be back there again, hopefully before the end of the year.
- 10 of the club members competed in the Majorca 312 event this year. What a difference it makes cycling on good quality roads and not feeling like you are wearing your sleeping bag to keep warm every time you go out the door. On the basis of this experience a club trip abroad is certainly something we should be looking to do in the future. We just need some help to coordinate.

The club has now reached a point where it needs a second wind. This is no different from any club or organization, the worst thing you can do is stand still. A development plan has recently been completed for the club, which sets out

the roadmap for the next 3 years. This will help provide focus and direction. It was important in the early years to let it evolve without too much constraint before setting a firmer direction. We've now reached that point. Coupled with this we also now have a number of vacant positions on the committee to fill this year. That is also healthy as it allows fresh ideas and instills renewed vigor and impetus into moving things on.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your support through the year. The experiences for us here have been great. We are encouraged and gratified to see enjoyment you as the membership get out of it, long may that continue.

May your wheels spin and your saddle sores sting!

Thanks all and in the spirit of Cycling for All.

Willie Tulloch

SCC Chairman