

Hillfoots Community Cycling Club

Minutes of First Annual General Meeting

15th January 2025, 7pm

The Ochil Arms, Dollar

Attendees

Committee: Fi Glasgow (Chairperson), Stephan Scheuerl (Treasurer), Mike Walsh (Secretary), Fran Spencer (Welfare Officer)

Members: Norman Lucey, Juliet Molteno, Neil Daly, Greig Ness, Neale Walker, Niki McLean, Shona Scheuerl

Welcome from Chairperson

Thank you all so much for coming to our inaugural AGM. High proportion of members here on a dark January night.

Committee introduced.

Tonight's formal AGM will be fairly brief and succinct. You have the agenda and there are a few formalities that we need to go through but we will then move on to a discussion about how you would like the club to look in the future and we can give an update on a few current and possible future developments for the club and cycling in Dollar. Please feel free to engage as much as possible

Chairperson's Report – Fi Glasgow

HCCC aims to provide a safe, friendly and welcoming environment where like-minded cyclists of all abilities from across Clackmannanshire can meet, ride and chat together. We are affiliated to British Cycling as you know, administrative assistance (subscriptions) and insurance benefits.

Committee members x 4 plus Neil as 'adviser' DCC

15 members

15 rides. Both road and gravel with more interest seeming to come for gravel rides (?)

1 social event

1 meet up at Fife Cycle Park

We are looking to grow and attract new members.

Treasurers Report – Stephan ScheuerlTreasurer reported that total income from 1/1/24 until 15/1/25 was £287.00. Total outgoings accounted for £253.00. Balance was £34.

Treasurer stated that HCCC account with Bank of Scotland had been closed. Funds had been transferred to Lloyds Bank. The reason for the change being that BoS had introduced a monthly charge on the account. Lloyds Bank had no monthly charge.

The report was proposed Neil Daly and seconded by Fi Glasgow. Detailed account is attached

Annual Club Membership

There was a vote on annual club membership fee, resulting in an agreement to keep the fee at £15.

Re-election/election of office bearers and any general committee members

All existing committee members agreed to remain in office. Norman Lucey agreed to become a general committee member. It's fantastic to have his support.

AGM was formally closed.

Any Other Business/General Discussion

1. Active Dollar & Muckhart (ADM) (formerly Active Dollar)

Neil summarised the activities including 10 bikes being available for hire to the public and electric adaptive bikes for elderly/disabled people. Funding has also been secured for some cycle training that ADM can offer free of charge for 15 lucky locals. It was felt that the ADM cycling offering had not been advertised enough and that HCCC could assist with getting the word out. Dollar Past & Present would be an ideal platform for this and should include a link to the ADM website. FG agreed to pull something together.

It was mentioned by Mike that with the alignment of Muckhart, Dollar and Fossoway, in the formation of ADM, the community that would benefit would increase from 3000 to 5000. A crucial immediate benefit has been a substantial fund from the Rumbling Bridge Hydroelectric Company. This funding will be used to provide a series of maps that will benefit both cyclists and walkers in the area. Harveys of Doune has been contracted to prepare these maps.

2. HCCC Youth Section

Discussions have been had with Dollar Academy who are keen to set up a mountain biking club. This would be run by staff/parents but could come under the banner of HCCC. In order for this to happen Fran needs to complete the last of three parts of the Child Welfare and Protection training, which she will investigate.

3. Rides and Routes.

It was felt that the general move seems to be away from road biking towards gravel in Scotland and that this is particularly true in the winter. This is due to the more relaxed

nature of gravel biking and it can embrace a wider level of abilities. For the time being we will continue with gravel rides. We agreed to post 2 rides per month on Sundays. The first Sunday ride will take place on 19th January. It will be gravel and roughly 33 miles. FG to add these to Spond but route details will be added nearer to the date of the ride. We are confident that this regularity of rides will help us increase riders and memberships. In summer we will aim to add shorter evening rides too.

It was agreed that we need to pull together a menu of local suitable routes for our rides. FG to work out where it is best to store these routes (Spond/HCCC website) This would then make it easier to post rides by picking all ride details from this list. Ride With GPS was felt to be the best app to create the GPX route files and would detail distance, elevation and a map, which would enable members to ascertain the suitability of that route. These routes could also be shared to the ADM site and could be used for the wider community including tourists. As previously mentioned, ADM have also been in discussion with Harveys Maps in Doune to potentially create a cycling map of the area. It would be useful to have a bank of documents that detail rider responsibilities e.g carrying of spares, importance of riders doing regular bike checks, tube v tubeless discussion, ride etiquette etc. These could be held on HCCC website/Spond/our British Cycling Club page and would serve to educate and encourage new riders. Although this is not currently a problem, we discussed the issue of maximum ride numbers and it was felt that 8 is possibly the max number of riders to ensure a smooth ride where the level of speed is not too disparate and that mechanicals could be kept to a manageable level. When riding on the road it helps to limit the inconvenience to drivers as it is easier to keep a small group together.

4. Other Club Activity

There was discussion around local events and it was agreed that it would be a really positive if we could get club members to attend local sportives and cycling events. Norman Lucey suggested that we have a summer BBQ ride, possibly up at his place in Coalsnaughton. This was felt to be a great idea.

5. Ideas to advertise the club and increase membership

With only 15 club members we are keen to grow our membership. It was widely agreed that holding more regular rides on set dates would go a long way to increasing riders. Along with social media we will put together paper posters to be posted in doctors surgeries, community centres etc. FG to pull together a poster which all can help distribute. The Doddie Foundation, an established charity that funds research into Motor Neurones Disease, is organising a large fundraising bike ride which will pass through Dollar on 6th February. Dollar Academy are heavily involved in hosting approx. 130 of the 400 cyclists. It would be great if HCCC can get some exposure. FG and Niki McLean to investigate as they are involved with the school for this event.

6. Membership expiry dates

There was discussion around whether members could be automatically notified when their membership was about to expire. Mike to investigate

7. Communication Platforms

There was much discussion as to what platforms are most suitable for posting club rides:

- a) **HCCC 'chat' and advertising**
- b) **Facebook** - It was agreed that although it has its limitations, we should continue with our Facebook page. We have over 170 followers, although many are clearly very passive, but it can serve as a useful tool to increase the exposure of the club and to attract new members. Rides will not be posted on Facebook.
- c) **Instagram** - Greig agreed to set us up an Instagram account which would be linked to our Facebook page so any content would appear on both platforms. Greig and Stephan to pursue
- d) **Spond** - Again there are some limitations with this platform most particularly re the unreliability of notifications. Spond will continue to be used to officially post club rides. Initially a time and date will be posted with route details being added when we know who is riding.
- e) **Whats App** - It was agreed that a HCCC 'community' would be set up and would include a committee group and a members group. The members group could then be used to agree on a route once it is know who will be attending. One rider would then post the details of the ride on Spond, either from our 'route bank' or from their own knowledge. It was agreed that this approach would help create more of a club community with everyone's involvement and would lessen the pressure on the committee to nominate and 'lead' rides. The committee WA group would continue as it is. Stephan to action