

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MORAY FIRTH CYCLING CLUB

ON 3 OCTOBER 2013

AT BEAUFORT HOTEL, CULDUTHEL ROAD, INVERNESS

Present: Jim Davidson, Andy Gadjia, Chris Goddard, Alfred Leslie, Eric Davidson, Fraser Macbeath, John Mclean, Innes Macritchie, Hector Nicholson, Laura Nicholson, Brian Pirie, Kenny Riddle, Neil Sharpe

Carole Wells, Al Whyte.

Visitors: Donald Hall, Development Officer for Scottish Cycling Union

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. We'd received apologies from John Grant, Susan Guest, and Brian Widdison.

2. REPORT FROM CHAIRMAN REFLECTING ON THE PAST YEAR'S ACTIVITIES

The Chairman highlighted the Club's success during this year's racing season. Lots of people had represented the club at all levels and in all types of cycling events. We had a podium spot at every NoSCA event. MFCC put on the first ever women's road race in the North of Scotland, which was successful and we hope even more people will participate next year. We enjoyed an Annual Dinner and a weekend away to Aviemore, and a group of MFCC riders had also gone cycling in Mallorca.

3. TREASURERS REPORT ON CLUB FINANCES - LAST YEAR

Many thanks to the Treasurer for running the Club's finances. It had been a very busy year and Alf tabled a report which is filed in the Members' section of the MFCC's website. Overall, the club finances have been well managed and there was a healthy cash balance. The number of Club Members at the end of last year was 67 compared to the current number of 77. It was noted that many people had not paid their fee until late on in the year which we would discuss later. On a positive note, this year it had been possible to offer a substantive increase in the value of the race prizes for the stage race; higher value prizes could help to attract entries particularly from riders outwith the area who incur travel and accommodation costs. The donation to the Hospice was made to allow use of a third party facilities during the stage race. Whilst we explored the possibilities of donating a proportion of the race entry fees to a local charity (a community spirit), on balance we felt this couldn't be done because of the

practicalities of how such a scheme might work, for example it would be difficult to choose one patron over another.

4. BIG PICTURE STUFF – SCOTTISH CYCLING UNION (SCU)

In the short time Donald Hall had been in post as SCU Development Officer he'd managed to get along to a few of our events and chatted to our members to find out more about our club. On big picture stuff he updated us on the on the SCU's Governance Review, the aim of which was to improve the way SCU functioned. It was proposed to reduce the number of Southern regions from 8 to 5 with the Northern Region being largely unaffected. Some of MFCC Committee Members had attended the consultation meeting in August, and felt that the changes would have little, if any, adverse impact on the Club. The consultation is still open for anyone who wanted to give their feedback. SCU would be discussing the outcome of the consultation in November. It was noted that any structural changes would not take place until 2015.

The Secretary had been working with the previous Development Officer and the Club Committee to draft a Development Plan which is available to view in the downloads section of the MFCC website. **Donald Hall would be coordinating training courses in the region and he'd send us details about those as and when they come up. He would also find out if there was sufficient interest in the region for a Timekeepers course to be run locally.**

There have been a lot of changes within British Cycling which were beneficial to cycling clubs like ours, and there were many organisations who were currently offering funding for cycling initiatives. **If anyone had any suggestions for how we might put the cash to good use please get in touch with the Club Committee.**

5. MEMBERS' AIMS AND AMBITIONS

This was a boom time for cycling! The Scottish Government was driving an agenda for healthier lifestyles and preventative spend, and SCU viewed cycling clubs as being at the centre of the sport, to drive participation. What sort of Club did we want to be? We had a good discussion and here are the key conclusions of that:

MFCC had a strong focus on racing: this was our niche and this was how a lot of people outside the club perceived us to be. This was a great strength to the club.

It's important we continued to have other options for riders, namely the middle and 3rd groups.

We needed to make more effort to attract new comers and new members to the club, particularly for social riding. There were other options for people now: other Inverness based clubs - cycling and triathlon - had been expanding in numbers of people looking for riding at different levels. We'd also noticed

there'd been an increase in people riding in groups around the area not within clubs.

Some of our regular social riders had left the club and although we had attracted a few new comers to the club we had less success in retaining them as regular riders. The difference between the distance & speed of the Monday recovery ride the step to the middle group on Sundays run could be too challenging for new comers to make the transition without the intermediate 3rd group.

Feedback from people outside the club strongly suggested we would benefit from a promotional drive to raise awareness about the breadth of what we had to offer - inclusiveness, mixed levels, safe group riding style, coaching, insurance, discounts and so on.

It's time we re-vamped the structure and content of our website/use of social media - this would help us connect more together as a club, and also help us communicate more clearly to outsiders what our club was all about.

We should try to get local newspapers to take up stories about our club. **If we sent Donald Hall our material he would try to get SC to release it, which might increase the chance of it getting printed in both the local and national press.**

We had a lot to offer by way of club session and social events. We ran quite a few racing events.

This coming year we would run the following sessions:

All year:

- Sunday club runs - aiming for 3 abilities: Group 1 (fastest 18mph+), Middle Group (16-19mph) and Group 3 (12-17mph*) but the group formation would depend on who's there on the day.

March to September:

- Monday recovery and beginners ride*
- Tuesday hill climbing*
- Thursday Chain gang

September to March:

- Saturday Chain gang
- Saturday Hector's run
- Tuesday turbo session*

Training and mentoring for improvers and racers who are of Group 1 type ability.

Notes about these sessions:

- The sessions that were more likely to have a broader range of ability riders so are better placed to cater for people who wanted to ride at slower speeds/over shorter distances are marked with a *
- The sessions not marked with an * tend to attract fast paced riders, so those attending on the day needed to be prepared and competent to ride alone (including wintry conditions) if they could not keep to the pace of the group.
- We do not normally allow under 18s to ride with the club unless their parents were riding alongside them. Under 18s must have completed a parental consent form.
- Members participate in club activities at their own risk. MFCC had insurance that covered third party claims made against club official responsible for such sessions, and guests who were riding with the club with a view to joining the club. It was worth bearing in mind that if a Member organised an activity for others without first seeking the club's official approval, in the event of a claim for loss or damage incurred during that activity the club's insurers might not deem it to be covered.

6. NON MEMBERS PARTICIPATION IN CLUB EVENTS

People had been questioning the value of paying their own membership fee when we allowed so many non-club members to participate regularly in our club training sessions. We discussed the general issue and it was also noted that there were implications for the Club's insurance (the club was only covered for any 'guests riding with a view to joining the club').

The following was agreed:

People should have an opportunity to try out the club before they joined but if they were regularly riding with the club they should join the club, and this included members of other clubs who should join MFCC as a 'second claim' member. This was fairer to all, as everyone who enjoyed the benefits of what the club had to offer would be making a contribution to the costs of running the club. We needed to create a climate of expectation whereby people felt they wanted to join the club so we don't need to chase and cajole anyone. We needed to clearly communicate the benefits of joining the club.

It was agreed to set up a "second claim" Membership. A second claim member was someone who's a member of another club with whom they may elect to race, but who also joins MFCC & regularly trains with us. The proposal to offer a discount (half the Membership fee) to second claim members was put to the vote. This was not supported, rather the majority view was that everyone (over 18 years old) should pay the same fee as ordinary Members ie full price.

7. RACE EVENTS AND DATES FOR 2014

At the recent date-fixing meeting, MFCC committed to organising the following Race Events:

Date - all 2014	Event	Location	Lead Organiser
20 Apr	10TT and APR	Cawdor	Kenny Riddle & Brian Pirie
7 May	Midweek 10TT series	Daviot	Eric
25 May	Munlochy Hills TT	Munlochy	Neil Sharpe
4 June	Midweek 10TT series	Cawdor	Eric Davidson
2 July	Midweek 10TT series	Daviot	Eric Davidson
6 July	Munlochy Hills 2 up	Munlochy	Chris Goddard
19 & 20 Aug	Stage Race	Black Isle	Phil Lee
XX Aug	Midweek 10TT series	Cawdor	Eric Davidson
24 Aug	Women's road race	Inverness	Laura Nicholson
21 Sept	Dores Hilly TT	Inverness - new event, Dores to Inverfarigaig	Alf Leslie

We don't have many people in the club with experience of running Race events and so the Committee invited Members to step forward to run in parallel with the race organisers, with a view to see what's involved in organising an event with a view to organising an event next year. We had a Race Organiser's Guide that set out the steps required, and hopefully helped to reassure people that it's not a big job. **Please get in touch with Neil Sharpe if you are able to get involved.**

The Club had also been struggling to find enough volunteers for marshalling and helping at events. Some events were labour intensive, such as the Stage Race which needed c.30 people to assist. As part of this, **it was agreed that we would expect Members who were going to compete in any one of the MFCC Race Events to sign up to help/marshall at another event.**

It was suggested that we consider having some MFCC members' only awards at some of these club events. This would need to be thought through further **and the Committee would consider a proposal in due course.** Initial thoughts were along the lines of 'the best all rounder', 'best performer as defined by podium places', 'best improver', 'best female' awards. **Carole Wells, in conjunction with Alf Leslie would shop around for quotes for some trophies.**

8. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Chair, Treasurer and Captain offered to serve another term. In the absence of any other nominees it was agreed that Neil Sharpe, Alf Leslie and Kenny Riddle would continue as the Chair, Treasurer and Captain respectively. The coming year (to end October 2014) would be second terms for all of them. The maximum number of consecutive years a Member could serve on the Committee was 3 years.

Carole Wells stepped down as Club Secretary, having served the maximum term of 3 years. The Chairman thanked her, on behalf of the club for her efforts. Despite asking around, noone had volunteered to take up the position. **It was decided that we would continue the search, and that the Chairman would call an Extraordinary Meeting of all Club Members before Christmas to discuss both the Secretary's appointment and the new Website (see later).**

9. REVIEW OF CLUB CONSTITUTION AND WELFARE POLICY

The Secretary had redrafted the Club Constitution in light of changes to the model promoted by British Cycling. The new version was adopted by the Members.

The Welfare Policy had not been changed but was fit for purpose.

10. CONFIRMING CLUB OFFICIALS FOR OTHER ROLES

Welfare Officer: We discussed the need for a Welfare Officer to be formally appointed as there seemed to be a requirement for someone to be the point of contact should any child or vulnerable adult need to talk about any issue arising. **The Development Officer said he would make enquiries to find out more about this with Scottish Cycling and get back to Kenny Riddle or Neil Sharpe about it, and they would, if necessary, take steps to appoint someone in MFCC to the role.** In the meantime we were reassured that several club members had previously attended training and could be called upon to offer advice (Kenny Riddle, Mike Henderson, Alf Leslie, Hector Nicholson). **Alf Leslie and Hector Nicholson would check when their PVG Disclosure was due to expire, noting this normally lasted for 3 years.** Hector Nicholson advised on best practice: if someone under 18 years old turned up at a club session they should only ride with the club if they

have given us parental consent (there is a form for this), but in any event it was best that the parent/guardian accompanied their child on any rides with the club.

First Aiders: Kenny Riddle (uptodate qualification), Laura Nicholson, Mike Henderson, Penny Phillips, Lee Cragie, Alf Leslie and Eric.

Coaches: Laura Nicholson is level 2. Kenny Riddle, Mike Henderson, Penny Phillips are in hand for level 2.

Website Master: Fraser MacBeath

Timekeepers: Brian Pirie

Assistant timekeepers: None but Jim Davidson volunteered to take up training. Donald Hall would see if he could get a timekeepers course organised in the Highlands.

Commissionaires: None. Alf Leslie had volunteered to take up training and Phil Lee had apparently previously shown an interest. Scottish Cycling Union were thinking about running some courses this winter.

Publicity person: On balance we decided against appointing someone to this task, noting instead that any items could be forwarded to Donald Hall (see previously).

11. CLUB FEES FOR 2013/14

Club fees were due on 1 January each year and the year ended 31 December that year. There was no discount for joining the club part way through the year. It was agreed that the only circumstance when there would be a discount was if a brand new Member joined the club after 1 September (AND it must be the first time they have ever paid a fee to join MFCC as this does not apply to returners) then their membership period would last until 31 December the following year.

The following Membership fees were agreed:

- Ordinary member£20 per annum
- “Second claim” Membership....£20 per annum. A second claim member is a member of another club with whom they may elect to race, but who also joins MFCC & regularly trains with us.
- Under 18years and still at school.....free of charge

12. HOW WE SPEND THE CLUB'S MONEY

A few suggestions were put forward:

- Purchase a turbo trainer for anyone to borrow at Turbo training sessions: rejected (difficulties with storage/transporting it around)
- DVDs for Turbo training sessions: **Agreed to purchase some new ones**
- Projector for Turbo training sessions: not currently required
- Equipment for MFCC race events: considered buying some 'START' and 'FINISH' signs. Rejected.
- Trophies for the club Series of 10TT and other: Having some annual trophies (perhaps in the Novice, Improver, Womens, overall winner categories for the Club Series of 10TT and/or other annual awards was supported. **It was agreed that Carole Wells, in conjunction with Alf Leslie, would shop around to get a feel for costs.**
- Small (£10) subsidy for purchase of club kit to encourage Members to wear the MFCC colours on club outings to raise visibility of the club and help promote new comers – rejected on the grounds that it was too complicated to administer. However, it was agreed that the club was willing to pay for the purchase of one skin suit for any Under 18 year old Member (only one purchase per person irrespective of how many years they are a member).

13. CLUB WEBSITE

It was agreed that we should refresh the MFCC website. We talked about the pros and cons of procuring an IT developers time to help us, but overall we concluded not to do this as it was felt that the best approach was to hire the technical backdrop (an annual fee to a supplier giving a template) and to work up the content ourselves. We had some IT experts at the Club (Fraser MacBeath and Andrew Gadjia) and others (notably Laura Nicholson) who had some experience of setting up websites, and all of whom were willing to give some time to this project. **It was agreed that Neil Sharpe would set up an Extraordinary meeting before Christmas 2013 to discuss the website development and content (and other items: Secretary/Welfare Officer see earlier).**

14. INSURANCE

Members noted that with more cyclists on the roads, those who were campaigning for greater safety for cyclists were also making efforts to raise awareness of the importance of cyclists having their own public liability insurance. The club was keen to encourage riders to have this in place

particularly given the financial liabilities that might be incurred in the event of causing an accident. Other advice on insurance is earlier in this minutes.

15.SOCIAL EVENTS

- Weekend trip to Torrison in October 2013
- Annual Club Dinner at the end of January 2014 at the Cinamon Restaurant. **Carole Wells would book the venue and advertise the date.**

16.ANYTHING ELSE?

- It was confirmed that the Club would reimburse all Members' race entry fees for National Events (ie just Scottish events) during 2013 and 2014. **Claims for events this year must be made by the end October 2013. The closing date for claims for events next year must be made by the end October 2014. Claims will not be accepted after this date.** The total cost of the reimbursements was capped at £400 per annum, and if total claims from all Members exceeded this the monies would be allocated on a pro-rata basis.
- Culloden Sportiv: this new event had attracted over 100 entries. **Marshalls were sought to help out.** Monies raised would be going towards the Veldorome-for-the Highlands Project.

Minutes drafted by: Carole Wells, Secretary

Approved by: Neil Sharpe, Alf Leslie, Kenny Riddle