



CYCLE CLIPS

January 2010

Newsletter Grampian
Cyclists' Touring Club Grampian



Foreword

This Newsletter (without much news) contains great news which you will soon discover if you have enough patience to read through this edition.

Some years ago Gordon started the search for the 100 Uses of an old Inner Tube. It is nearly complete. This edition starts a new competition: 100 Moans about Cyclists

Running Bikes

The name Running Bikes conjures up images of expensive bikes on the run from the authorities. The name Running Bike is fairly recent. In some publications it is called a **Balance Bicycle**, in Australia they call them **Like a Bike**. However, I prefer the term runner or running bike. Children as young as 18 months can learn to cruise on such a bicycle within a few hours.

They have no pedals, they teach toddlers to balance and grow fearless and allow the most daring among them to jump on ramps and through hoops. With a runner, the rider learns **balance first, pedal last**. In contrast, with a normal bicycle fitted with training wheels, the rider learns **pedal first, balance last**.



How to spend the Club's money?

Readers may be aware, and if they aren't, they should be, that our Grampian Club has money. Several times over the past five years you, the readers, have been asked for your opinion how to spend some of this "fuluus" (an Arabic word for "filthy lucre"). One proposal for the next AGM is that our Club spend some of it on the above-mentioned runner bikes. Once we have them, we tell parents that they can borrow them for a small fee or for free. Their toddler will soon get a real bike with pedals. Thereafter he or she can be recruited to the Grampian CTC. I think this is a brilliant idea: Catch them Young.

Polluting Road Humps

Whereas HUMPS assist in traffic calming, they cause damage to the environment (and some people say they damage your car). They cause a rise of 82% in carbon dioxide emissions and a 37% rise in nitrous oxide. The new way of traffic calming in 20mph zones is the introduction of average speed cameras. So now it is question for the roads people of costing average speed cameras versus humps. It could well be that the cameras are cheaper. They are also more efficient, because over 90% of drivers keep to the limits where they are introduced.

Road Humps Are Old-fashioned

Road Humps are last year's solution to traffic calming. The Road Section in Aberdeen City Council does not know that yet, they have just laid a heap of humps around the new Academy in Cults. This was in spite of protests from a spokesman of the Community Council. Other new school buildings in the City (Aberdeen deserves praise for these schools!) are now similarly threatened by foresaid humps. In the correct terminology they are referred to as "*vertical deflections in highways*".

When they were introduced in a certain country in the Middle East, the warning sign said "Hamps Ahead". Children hoped that when you went fast over them, you would get hampers.

Cycle safety benefits of 20mph zones

The British Medical Journal recently published an article confirming that 20mph zones in London have delivered a 38% reduction in serious or fatal cyclist injuries. The Road Safety Minister also acknowledged that 20mph zones and limits are a Good Thing", not just for road safety, but also for encouraging walking and cycling, thus improving air quality. We need more of them.

If we want to jump on a popular bandwagon, here is the one to catch: Cycling is good for Air Quality, stops Global Warming and fights Climate Change. What a bandwagon, it catches three-in-one: Air Quality, Global Warming and Climate Change. Therefore we can confidently say that Cycling is a "Good Thing".

This picture (sent in by Gary Cameron) **will bring a smile to Gordon's face**



Necklace made from knitting discarded bicycle inner tubes. Is this number 100?
(After I received this, I learned that Gordon thinks it would make an ideal Christmas Present).

Club Funding

All of us have at one time belonged to groups where people were permanently encouraged to raise funds. Original ideas usually were: a cheese and wine or a jumble sale or a book sale or a sponsored walk or a sponsored run or swim or sit-in or a sponsored silence. All these sponsored things are utterly detestable and the poor uncles and aunties, grammas and grampas have had their bellyful of them.

People have discovered that you can get funding from all sorts of hidden pots in local authorities or the government, if only you know where to press the right buttons, such as air quality, obesity, climate change, social inclusion, save the polar bear, etc. However, the difficulty is that you have to go on courses teaching you how to fill in the right forms. Those courses are given by other people who have been given funding so they can charge £200 for a day's work.

We must all be so grateful that we don't have to raise club funds by promising to cycle ten miles.

How much for a Road Hump?

By the way, did you know that the "red bits" on the roads cost £50 per square meter? This is a figure given to the Aberdeen Cycle Forum. It should be easy to find out what is the cost of a hump.

Dutch bikes outside a British Pub



This picture is unusual for this time of year in this area. This must be due to Climate Change or Global Warming.

CTC Grampian have 5 ride types, here is number 6

Gordon asks: "What about asking your readers if there is any interest in having an "Ancient Bike Ride" as one of the club runs in, say, August or September? It would probably be C distance and just a fun run". Please sidle up to Gordon during a ride and tell him that you are in favour of Ancient Bike Rides.



Here Follows a “Scoop” for Cycle Clips

Before going to press, the Editor received the following email:

"John and Sheila are very happy to announce their engagement on the 6th December 2009"

**Congratulations from all in
CTC Grampian!**

Peterculter’s Poor Pavements

On behalf of CTC Grampian and the Aberdeen Cycle Forum (aberdeencycleforum.org.uk) your Editor wrote to the three local councillors who look after Peterculter. I informed them of the complaints received from various quarters that the road surface in Culter was deplorable. In fact, in 2005 the Roads people promised me this would be repaired in 2006-7. Then they only repaired two hundred yards and the rest of the road is getting worse by the month. One of the three councillors wrote back to say that she had contacted the roads section in the council offices. This means I will have to write again.

The AGM

Our Club’s Annual General is surprisingly well attended as AGMs go. The various organisations to which I have belonged at one time or other see the AGM as a great bore that has to be gone through for legalistic reasons. In our case it can be an enjoyable experience, mainly due to Secretary Sheila’s Slide Show (say that five times quickly!). Yet there is the lurking danger that speakers love the sound of their own voices.

The Christmas Lunch

Together with the Annual General Meeting, this is becoming one of the best attended functions as organised by our Chairman John Baghurst. There are no speeches! On 12 December 2009 over 40 people attended from as far away as Turriff. Talking of Turriff, Bill Sinclair sent in a whole raft of hotel notices. Here is the one that is not rude:

**CUSTOMERS WHO FIND OUR WAITRESSES RUDE OUGHT TO SEE
THE MANAGER**

Doug French drew my attention to

Santa's Reindeer

According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, while both male and female reindeer grow antlers in the summer each year, male reindeer drop their antlers at the beginning of winter, usually late November to mid-December. Female reindeer retain their antlers till after they give birth in the spring. Therefore, according to EVERY historical rendition depicting Santa 's reindeer, EVERY single one of them, from Rudolph to Blitzen, had to be a girl. We should've known.....ONLY women would be able and willing to drag a fat-ass man in a red velvet suit all around the world in one night and not get lost.

One Hundred Moans about Cycling

Here we go. I hope you enjoy the language and the indignation in some of them:

- 1. Beware, iPod zombie cyclists are on the rise!*
- 2. Even more dangerous than the iPod cyclists are the invisible ghost riders who, in a bizarre twist of natural selection, camouflage themselves in black on dark mornings. This ensures that the predators (us motorists) have no chance of seeing their prey.*
- 3. I feel the cyclist deliberately led the dog onto the road. It was a miracle she wasn't killed or the cause of a serious accident. Why do these people believe they can behave in such a reckless manner.*
- 4. Why don't they get themselves a pogo stick and pogo off into the sunset, leaving us drivers in peace to do what we enjoy doing.*
- 5. While British drivers are, without doubt, Europe's most arrogant, ignorant and discourteous, these headphone-wearing cyclists give all cyclists a bad name. I would have no objection to seeing these people charged with some sort of offence akin to driving without due care and attention.*
- 6. If the jokers in Whitehall want to make drivers legally responsible for all accidents involving cyclists, then perhaps there should also be a law that states that if cyclists cause an accident while wearing headphones they should be required to pay, say, £100,000 to the motorist. (After this I can't follow the logic of this writer) By the time three or four motorists have driven intentionally into cyclists to claim their £100,000, perhaps the rest of the cycling community will get the message loud and clear.*
- 7. Several times a week we have to dodge speeding cyclists. Does it take an incident where a dog is killed or a child seriously hurt by these idiots before some action is taken? From now on I am going to photograph every cyclist in case their behaviour leads to an accident.*

Any reader coming across a **Good Old Moan**, please let me know. We must reach 100 Moans by the end of 2010. That should be no problem, just keep an eye on the Evening Express.

**The next issue of Cycle Clips will be published in April 2010. Any comments and contributions to Gerard by 15 March at 01224 734799 or to gerardvlaar@yahoo.com
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