



SCOTLAND

CHAIR'S REPORT

I must start this year's AGM report by acknowledging the very difficult circumstances our members, volunteers and staff have been in for many months. I want to send the committee's wishes to all of our members and your loved ones at this very difficult time. This year the COVID-19 pandemic has meant cancelled holidays and cycling tours, restrictions to group rides and informal get-togethers, and impacts on Cycling UK's staff, projects, members and volunteers. So as always I'd like to say a huge thankyou to all our volunteers, members, supporters, member group organisers, and team of amazing staff who have dedicated their time and energy to Cycling UK in Scotland this year.

2020 was also a year that showed us the potential of cycling. When daily exercise must start and finish at your own front door, cycling has the potential to bring us to Scotland's hills, mountains, lochs and coast in the way that our two feet never can. And cycling for shopping, work, and accessing essential services was suddenly safer than crowded public transport or car sharing, and more enjoyable than before, due to the lack of motor traffic on the streets.

Last year's AGM was a real celebration of the enjoyment of cycling, with great contributions from our invited speakers and pecha kucha volunteers, but as you know, we won't be able to meet in person for our AGM this year. We do have an exciting guest speaker booked, who will share with us the spirit of cycling adventure and inspire us to get the maps and guidebooks out over the winter. If you haven't already signed up for the virtual AGM, [please do](#). I hope that we will be able to have a larger face-to-face gathering next year.

The committee's activities this year have been necessarily curtailed. Many of the events and meetings were cancelled, allowing us to make progress with some important housekeeping. As you will [hopefully have read](#), proposals will come to the AGM that will transform the Cycling UK Scotland committee from being an unusual member group into a formally constituted National Advisory Committee. This proposed change brings clearer links to Cycling UK's Board of Trustees and senior management team, while retaining our ability to support our fantastic staff, volunteers and members throughout the nation.

While the Committee were knee deep in Terms of Reference and strategy documents, their wonderful work of Cycling UK didn't stop just because of a global pandemic. Our Head of Development Scotland, Suzanne Forup, and her team have continued where they were able to work on the fantastic array of cycling projects we heard about at last year's AGM, and our relationships with Scottish Government, other active travel groups and partner organisations continued to be strengthened. If you visit the cycling UK website, half of the featured Cycling Projects are in Scotland, including [WheelNess](#), [Play Together on Pedals](#), the

[Bothy](#), and [Belles on Bikes](#). And this year Cycling UK is administering the [Scotland Cycle Repair Scheme](#), our largest ever programme at £1.5m, enabling the people that need help most right now to get their cycles fixed and on the road. I couldn't be more proud of what our staff, volunteers and members have achieved.

We are approaching the next Scottish Government elections, and lobbying and campaigning for cycling, walking and wheeling has never been more important. The potential benefits to health, well-being and the economy from an increase in active travel and a reduction in motor traffic were clear in the spring, and we have a huge opportunity to break the cycle of car dominance and build a healthier, happier and better future. The [Walk Cycle Vote](#) campaign is ramping up activity, with a refreshed set of campaign 'asks' and plenty of work for willing volunteers – please get involved in whatever way you can.

The finances of Cycling UK Scotland have benefited from receiving an allocation from the Cycling UK central budget, but little expenditure on events and activities. This has compensated for a few years where our reserves had been depleted, and I hope this along with the governance changes will put Cycling UK Scotland on a firm footing for next year.

As I step down as Chair after three fantastic years, I can't help feeling that better times are just around the corner. With the 'governance question' finally reaching a resolution, the National Advisory Committee can take forward the real business of creating a healthier, happier and cleaner world because more people cycle.

Finally, thank you to the members of the Cycling UK Scotland Committee including to our Treasurer, Yann, who also steps down. It has been a pleasure and a privilege working with you all over the years and I'm sure you will take Cycling UK from strength to strength in Scotland.

Happy (and safe) riding!

Lizzie Reather

Chair, Cycling UK Scotland