

Wheelrights

Notes of AGM on 30 October 2013 in Environment Centre, Swansea

Present: Don Ashman, Mike Cherry, Chris Connick, Rhian Evans, Bill Gannon, Shamala Govindasamy, Nick Guy, David Judd, Mike Lewis, David Naylor, John Sayce, Alan Watson

Apologies: Martin Brain, Judith Cole, Claudine Conway, Jenifer Crookes, Colin Fielder, Michael Gregory, Phil Jones, Alan Kreppell, Kerry Rogers, Fran Rolfe, Alice Saville, Rob Wachowski, Geoff Wood, Veronica Wood.

The meeting was chaired by Nick Guy.

Minutes of last agm (on 22 October 2012)

Acceptance of these was proposed by Mike Lewis and seconded by David Judd. Matters arising were covered in the reports.

Secretary's Report

David Naylor summarised key points in his report which is included as Appendix A. There were however a number of comments from the floor.

These included suggestions on how to publicise our Adult Beginners Classes: eg by distributing the A5 flyers in bike shops and in fitness centres such as the LC.

In response to David N's invitation David Judd volunteered to be a Newsletter guest editor for the Spring issue.

Chairman's Report

Nick Guy added to his report, which is included as Appendix B, that the Active Travel Bill was now law. He asked for suggestions for infrastructure to be included in the maps which the Bill requires LAs to produce.

He circulated the colour coded tube type map (referred to in section 5 of his report) which shows proposed cycle links in the County.

He noted that the centenary of Dylan Thomas's birth is in 2014 and that a cycle ride from Laugharne to Swansea is planned as part of the celebrations.

Treasurer and Membership Secretary Report

Colin Fielder report is included as Appendix C. He had not been able to attend the meeting to speak to it.

Acceptance of the three officers' reports was proposed by David Judd and seconded by John Sayce.

Election of Officers

There being no other nominations, the existing officers were confirmed as follows:

	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Seconder</u>
Chairman	Nick Guy	Mike Lewis	Bill Gannon
Secretary	David Naylor	Nick Guy	Chris Connick
Treasurer & Member. Sec.	Colin Fielder	John Sayce	David Naylor

AOB

The other business and a short Question and Answer session are taken together here. They were separated by tea break.

Mike Cherry suggested that a forum was needed to bring together the various cycling organisations in Swansea. This was supported. Nick Guy and John Sayce felt that this should involve sport cycling and should be separate from the Council.

John Sayce advised that Cybil Crouch (Cabinet Member for Sustainability) had made a commitment to the provision of more cycle routes. This needs to be followed up.

APPENDIX A

Secretary's report for *Wheelrights* 2013 agm

This report covers the period from the previous agm on 22 October 2012.

Key events

In addition to our regular Adult Beginners classes and quarterly meetings with Swansea Council three events stand out: mass cycle rides at the start of Bike Week in June, the fourth *Gower Cycling Festival* in August and the second *Swansea Cycle Challenge* in September.

Mass cycle rides.

These took place at the start of Bike Week on 15 June. Previously (the last being on 18 June, 2011) we had held just one ride from Blackpill to the Castle Square. This year we decided to hold two, the first as before with in addition a ride from the Liberty Stadium to Castle Square. Both were timed to arrive at Castle Square at 1.00pm.

About 30 joined the Blackpill ride, including Byron Davies AM (Shadow Transport Minister) who said a few words when we got to Castle Square. Relatively few took part in the other ride. As previously we wore A4 placards with messages for passing motorists encouraging them to get on their bikes. We got rained on half way. Even so the rides served their purpose. In retrospect we should perhaps have gone for just one ride as we would then have had more people on it.

Gower Cycling Festival (GCF).

This took place from 10-18 August. This was the first time we have held it in August. Also we added a day to include the final Sunday. Due to it being held during the summer holiday and probably also due to better publicity the numbers were up by about a quarter to close to 200. A particular plus was that for the first time we attracted a significant number from outside S. Wales. There were 32 from England and at least 6 from abroad. The *Cycle Festival* page on our website provides a pictorial record and also a report which gives facts and figures.

Judging by some very positive, if limited, feedback it was again a success. We will probably hold it again in August although may cut it back to 8 days.

Swansea Cycle Challenge (and Bae Fest).

This started on 9 September. It was scheduled to end on the 29th but was extended to 6 October. *Wheelrights* were less involved than last year but did support the Try-a-bike sessions. The bikes for these, which we provided last year, were provided by the Council. The task of transporting a large trailer load of Council bikes fell to Rob Wachowski, to whom thanks are due for the considerable effort involved. The Challenge was coordinated by Philip McDonnell, who must take the credit for making it again a success. Results of the Challenge can be found on www.swanseacyclechallenge.org.uk. *Wheelrights* made a significant contribution by helping with the Try-a-bike sessions and assisting with the promotion of the event.

We shared a table with Sustrans and the CTC during the *Bae Fest* which took place on the foreshore between the Cenotaph and Watersports360 on 28/29 September. This complemented the Challenge and was quite a hit. A key to its success was that we were in a big "cycling" tent together with BikeAbility Wales. This was in an enclosed area where the public could try out BikeAbility's specialised bikes for the disabled. There was a lot of interest.

Evening meetings

These took place in the Environment Centre on the following evenings (Attendees in []): 14th January [17], 11th February [12], 11th March [17], 24th April [12], 12th June [13], 16th July [13] and 3rd September [19]. See the *Newsletters & Notes* website page for notes of these meetings.

Meetings to organise the GCF were held in the Railway Inn on 26th November, 9th January, 20th February, 17th April, 15th May, 26th June, 7th August and after the Festival on 18th September.

Adult Beginners classes

Five took place from 9.30 to 11.30 in the Civic Centre East car park on the following Saturdays (Attendees in []): 13th April [4], 11th May [5], 15th June [≈12], 20th July [4] and 31st August [5]. A class planned for 21st September was cancelled because of rain. The poor attendance at all except the June class may have been due to lack of publicity. This class was at the start of Bike Week and the numbers may have been boosted by Bike Week publicity. The May, June and September classes were listed in *What's On*. The *Evening Post* having let us down last year we did not ask them to publicise the classes.

Other events/activities

Green Fayre

We shared a stall with Sustrans at the *Green Fayre* in the Waterfront Museum on Saturday, 24 November 2012.

Active Travel Bill consultation

Last year We commented on the White Paper which preceded the Bill and then in April this year made a formal submission on the Bill itself. Both these documents are available as pdf files on the *Campaigns* page of our website. They supported the underlying principles but expressed concern that some key elements in the White Paper were watered down in the actual Bill. I attended the conference *Wales: a Cycling Nation* on 16 September in Cardiff. In this we were assured by the First Minister himself that Active Travel would be to the fore in Wales, indeed be considered a normal mode of transport. It was a well chaired (by Phillip Darnton, ex chair of *Cycling England*) and positive meeting. How effective the *Active Travel* Bill will be remains to be seen. I think it is still being debated.

Seminar

On 1 May the Council held a seminar – a sequel to John Grimshaw's on 19 Oct. 2009 – titled *Designing and Planning for Better Places*. It was an all day event in the Civic Centre, attended by officers representing designers and planners. I was there as *Wheelrights* rep. It was led by Phil Jones, a co-author of *Manual for Streets*. The message that pedestrians and cyclists need to have priority to motorised traffic was clearly communicated. We can only trust that this message will be taken on board. The Council plans to hold such seminars probably twice a year.

IEP (Intercity Express Programme) trains

Responding to our concerns that the new trains scheduled to run between Paddington and Swansea after electrification in 2017/18 might have insufficient bike stowage Alan Kreppell took this up on our behalf with the DfT. He made a case for provision of 12 dedicated bike spaces on the 8/9 carriage trains and also for better arrangements for the disabled than appear to be planned. His questions were not properly answered. We also took this up with The CTC who, with Sustrans, are lobbying for better provision for cyclists. The outcome remains to be seen.

Wheelrights Summer Solstice ride

This took place on the longest day, 21 June. 12 met at Duvant for the evening ride to Llanrhidian. The leader was David Judd disguised as a Druid. Unlike last year it was a fine evening, and, in line with tradition, we stopped for a pint at a pub: the Dolphin in Llanrhidian.

Festival of the Tides

We had a stall at this event which took place on Saturday, 6 July. We failed however to organise a ride as we did last year when we won the parade fancy dress prize.

Uplands Market stalls

Thanks to Nick Guy's initiative we had stalls at the Uplands Market on 27 July and 24 August.

Infrastructure

Gowerton - Kingsbridge Link

Approval from Network Rail for bikes to use the new footbridge across the recently doubled track at Gowerton Station has been obtained. This has opened the way for a link across Stafford Common to Kingsbridge. The Council is working on this but the necessary agreement to take it across Stafford Common has yet to be obtained.

North Gower Path (between Berthlwyd and Pont-y-Cob Road.)

Some progress by the Council has been made, to the extent that the way is almost clear to construct the path over the half mile in question except for the bit past Halfway House.

West of Civic Centre and Swansea Boulevard.

A landmark was the widening to shared use of the footway along Oystermouth Road which links to the foreshore west of the Civic Centre. This was completed in the Spring.

Wheelrights had been lobbying for this since 2008!

Work on a shared use path along Oystermouth Road from the Civic Centre past the LC to the crossing at the Wind Street-Somerset Place junction is nearing completion and should be complete by Christmas. The provision of a suitably wide path here is something *Wheelrights* lobbied for as early as 2004!

NCR 43 diversion

NCR 43 has since early this year been diverted between the Beaufort Bridge and the motorway (about two miles) for the construction of flood mitigation works. Completion by Christmas (2013 we assume!) is scheduled. The official diversion is to the west of the Tawe north of the Beaufort Bridge crossing over on the Tircanol Bridge. An alternative more cycle friendly route, which however is not suitable for tandems or tricycles, uses existing cycle paths to the east of the Tawe and follows the east side of Fendrod Lake. Unfortunately this is not signed.

Fabian Way Corridor

Work started this year on the new University Campus south of Fabian Way, now known as the "Bay Campus". This adds urgency to the provision of decent cycle links. Already planned, and likely to be constructed next year, is a link from NCR 4 under Baldwin's Bridge (Close to the Swansea/NPT boundary.) Coupled with this will be an improvement of NCR 4 between Port Talbot and the turn off to Baldwin's Bridge.

This link however is longer than need be and there is a strong case for a direct route through the docks. This is supported by the Council, by *Swansea Tidal Power* (the Company promoting the Swansea Lagoon) and, I trust, by the University. The idea is currently blocked by ABP who are concerned about interference with docks traffic. I am currently looking for a way to negotiate with ABP to find a solution: presumably a cycle route separated from docks traffic. A start has been made by *Tidal Power* as they already have agreement to construct a road in the docks area which will incorporate a cycle lane. This however needs cycle connections to Swansea from its west end and to the Bay Campus to the east.

Newsletter.

These have continued to appear quarterly. I am grateful to the various contributors who have provided articles, but disappointed that these are not spontaneous – gentle arm-twisting is usually needed! Also, regrettably, there has been virtually no feedback in the form of letters. Following Nick Guy's guest editorship of the Autumn 2012 edition I noted in my report last year that it would be healthy to have a different guest editor perhaps once a year, but no volunteers have come forward.

Website.

The number of hits averaged about 6 a day, close to last year.

A success early this year was that I managed to sort out the code necessary to allow on-line payments by either bank transfer or PayPal. This has enabled both GCF registration and the paying of *Wheelrights* membership fees. Many made use of this to register for the GCF and it was probably a factor in the increased participation.

David Naylor (*Wheelrights* Secretary)
October 2013

APPENDIX B

Chairman's report for *Wheelrights* 2013 agm

2013 ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR WHEELRIGHTS

2013 has seen a number of new cycling initiatives being launched in Swansea, and *Wheelrights* and our members have made significant contributions:

1. CHANGING THE CULTURE in the CITY AND COUNTY of SWANSEA

Wheelrights proposal of arranging regular Seminars to Highways and other CCS staff has continued with another seminar in 2013. (See Secretary's Report.) This has stimulated positive discussions amongst CCS staff, and we are now seeing a steady improvement in their attitude to cycling. I have proposed another Seminar by Gordon Gibson to hopefully include his vision for a "People Friendly Swansea".

We have continued our approach of constructive engagement with CCS, which has led to meaningful consultations, eg over Boulevard, and recently over a new City Centre network of cycle routes. Minutes of these Cycle Action Progress meetings are now on the *Newsletter and Notes* page of *Wheelrights* website. Councillor Nick Davies now chairs these meetings, and senior CCS Officer, Ben George, is cycling more – so the meetings have become a lot more productive.

2. NEW WECYCLE CENTRE AT SWANSEA UNIVERSITY

During the year *Wheelrights* learnt about this new cycle centre which will employ about 6 staff, and provide a new cycle hire facility.

Although funded mainly by Sports Development money the new coordinator's role will include the wider promotion of cycling, and we look forward to working closely with him/her. We have also heard about a planned new Bike Hub on the Strand, hosted by Coastal Housing (next to the new Urban Village, behind High Street).

3. SWANSEA CYCLE CHALLENGE

The second Cycle Challenge was another success and again saw *Wheelrights* being a key partner. The results were significant as out of the total of 775 participants (from 67 organisations) 134 were new cyclists, a high proportion.

4. A NEW SWANSEA CYCLE FORUM??

Wheelrights member Derek James got together a group of interested people to discuss the idea of creating a new Cycle Centre and/or Bike Park with an emphasis on Bikeability Wales, BMX and cycle maintenance. The Cycle Centre meetings have brought us in closer contact with new bike groups eg Clyne Riders, Gower Riders, Wecycle, etc. My suggestion is that this loose grouping evolve into a Swansea Cycle Forum, which is to be discussed at the next meeting in the New Year.

5. INFRASTRUCTURE

Continue to work with the Council to improve the provision for cyclists in the City Centre, including completion of the Boulevard work (in particular provision of a shared use path from Wind Street to the Tawe Bridges.), providing a link from NCR 43 to Parc Tawe across the N. Tawe Bridge and developing cycle routes along the west side of the Tawe. The City Centre work involves links to the Railway Station including signing, and also improvements in the neighbouring area. Much of the detail has now been agreed with the Council.

Outside the City Centre *Wheelrights* will be continuing to support the Council in their efforts to complete the N. Gower Cycle route and to make progress on the Gowerton to Kingsbridge link. (See Secretary's report.) We also hope to at least get a commitment to a cycle path across Clyne Common to provide a link to Pennard.

We will be working with the various authorities involved to establish direct cycle routes to the new University Campus south of Fabian Way (the "Bay Campus") both from Swansea and from the east. (See Secretary's report.)

In addition we have been pressing the Council to erect more fingerpost destination signs, and they are currently completing plans to undertake this, prioritising NCN 43.

Neath Port Talbot Council are developing a new schematic map of the main commuter cycle routes (loosely based on the classic London Underground map), we are currently consulting on this, which will hopefully help promote the routes to a wider public.

FUTURE PROPOSALS

All of the above initiatives and the increase in levels of cycling present new challenges and opportunities for *Wheelrights*. I believe it is a good time to review our approach and adapt to these new opportunities.

I suggest we arrange 2 or 3 meetings over the winter to discuss the following proposals:

Rebrand *Wheelrights* to enable us to reach out to more new and younger cyclists. This could include a competition for a new Logo?? Developing a fresh design for our website?? Expand our facebook efforts??

Involve our members more effectively in consultations over new routes, and deciding which campaigns to prioritise. This could be achieved by dividing Meetings into small groups eg to discuss soft (cycle promotion) and hard (infrastructure) issues.

Develop a *Wheelrights* Internet Forum (eg the Birmingham group have Stourbug so why not a "SwanBug" – Swansea Bicycle Users Group??)

Consider a request to expand *Wheelrights* into Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire. This arose from a request for help from Carmarthenshire's Phil Snaith with his campaign for the new Sainsburys at Cross Hands to provide better cycle connections. In addition the new Swansea City Region will include Swansea, Neath/Port Talbot, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire. A wider federated *Wheelrights* could provide mutual support and cycling expertise.

With the new Active Travel Bill in Wales, a slowly changing/ more cycle-friendly culture in Swansea Council, and a continuing increase in cycling interest, especially amongst younger people and families, I believe *Wheelrights* can adapt and become an even stronger voice for local cyclists.

Thus I wish to put forward these suggestions for your consideration and further discussion at the next couple of meetings.

Nick Guy (*Wheelrights* Chairman)
October 2013

APPENDIX C

Treasurer and Membership Secretary's report for *Wheelrights* 2013 agm

2013 has been a successful year for *Wheelrights* and for the Gower Cycling Festival.

We began the year (23/10/12) with £911.69 in the account and immediately agreed a donation of £100 to Bikeability Wales.

We end the year (24/10/13) with £1128.50 in the account.

Examining the *Wheelrights* and GCF account summaries (Details overleaf):

If we exclude the starting bank balance, the GCF and the individual CTC affiliation subscriptions, then our income was £530.41 (of which the main items were £363.41 membership fees and £110 from the bike classes).

Again excluding our final bank balance, GCF and the individual CTC affiliation subscriptions, our expenditure was £458.18 (of which £140 was room hire for meetings and £150.18 was non-GCF secretarial expenses).

The Gower Cycling Festival summary shows an income of £1320.72 and expenditure £1159. This includes the full cost of the new banners which are used to also promote *Wheelrights*.

The *Wheelrights* account summary (overleaf) shows GCF expenses as £1089 but the secretarial expenses row includes £70 GCF expenses, which adds up to the £1159.

One final point concerns the use of Paypal. This is a popular choice for online renewal of membership and for GCF registration. For each £5 paid we actually receive £4.63 while Paypal take the other 37p.

Membership

We have 86 members (26/10/13) of whom 73 have paid the 2013 subscription. 10 last paid in 2012 and 3 in 2011.

Colin Fielder (*Wheelrights* Treasurer)
October 2103

Wheelrights account summary 2012/2013

Income	Amount	Expenditure	Amount
Bank balance brought forward 23 Oct 2012	911.69	GCF expenses	1089.00
GCF income	1320.72	Environment centre (room hire)	140.00
Membership fees	363.41	Secretary's expenses(includes £70 GCF expenses)	220.18
CTC affiliation subscriptions	144.00	CTC affiliation (individuals x9, annual fee waived)	144.00
Bike classes	110.00	Cyclenation subscription	20.00
Uplands market	43.00	Donation to Bikeability Wales	100.00
Donations	14.00	Print partnership	18.00
		Upland's market (cycle challenge)	30.00
Total income	2906.82	Total expenditure	1761.18
		Bank balance on 17 Oct 2013	1148.50
		Expenditure plus bank balance	2909.68

We have £2.86 more in the bank account than appears on the spreadsheet: hence small discrepancy.