



Annual Report 2010

Foreword by the Chair



Brian Porteous
Chair
Developing Mountain
Biking in Scotland

"The success of mountain biking in the future in Scotland can only be achieved by more effective partnership working among the public, private and community sectors"

I have been working with the Scottish Mountain Bike Development Consortium(SMBDC) for a number of years but I was pleased and honoured when they appointed me as their chair in January.

It has been an interesting year to be involved in mountain biking and there are many success stories from all the partners involved within the SMBDC. Most of the partners have included an update of their developments in 2010 in this annual report. What I find especially encouraging is the partnership working between the national agencies.

It was the same partnership ethos which enabled the formation of 'The Sustainable Development of Mountain Biking – A National Strategic Framework'. For mountain biking to have a national framework to work towards involving all the major partners within the activity is no small feat. It has a clear vision of how mountain biking contributes to the Scottish nation, from increasing participation leading to improved health and wellbeing, encouraging tourism growth contributing to the Scottish economy and helping Scots to achieve success on a worldwide stage in the sport of mountain biking.

By detailing the improvements needed within mountain biking in Scotland it

gives a clear direction to the Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland project to implement the Framework.

I am also very impressed with the progress that has been made by the project. The national conference in October was a particular highlight. I have attended many conferences over the years but I can genuinely say our conference was the finest I have ever been involved with or attended.

The setting up development clusters will play an important role in how mountain biking develops across Scotland and I am pleased that progress is being made in the pilot area of Tayside & Fife.

Looking to the future I am pleased that NHS Scotland have joined the SMBDC and I look forward to their input over the following years.

We have also invited a member of the Dumfries & Galloway Mountain Biking Business Community to be part of the SMBDC. I believe that the success of mountain biking in the future will be the partnership working between the public, private and community sectors. Mountain biking in Scotland has an excellent opportunity to be a world leader. With the eyes of the world upon us I am pleased to be able to play my part in making this happen. ●

Graeme McLean's Introduction



Graeme McLean
Project Manager
Developing Mountain
Biking in Scotland

When I was appointed as the project manager to implement the 'The Sustainable Development of Mountain Biking in Scotland – A National Strategic Framework' I was incredibly proud and excited to be in a position to help this amazing activity reach its full potential.

I firmly believe in the Framework's vision and key aims that mountain biking can play a vital role in increasing participation leading to the improvement of the health of Scotland, developing tourism resulting in economic growth within Scotland and helping Scot's to achieve sporting success on a worldwide stage.

2010 was always going to be vital for the following reasons: Firstly, setting up the project and building strong relationships. Secondly, ensuring that at a national level the projects will be co-ordinated the correct partners are involved at the correct stages and finally, ensuring we lay the foundations to build future success upon.

Having laid these foundations I believe we are now at a very exciting stage. In 2011 we can help businesses, local authorities, community groups, public bodies, charities and the mountain biking community to work together to establish Scotland as a world leader in the sustainable development of mountain biking. ●

"2010 was always going to be vital in ensuring we lay the foundations to build future success upon"



➤ On the Black Craigs Trail, 7stanes Kirroughtree

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Communication & Marketing



The first major activity was to launch the Framework. We were extremely grateful to have Shona Robison MSP – Minister for Sport and Public Health, Steve Peat – UCI Downhill Mountain Bike World Champion and, especially, the pupils and staff of Bannerman High School. They have an innovative trail within school grounds and a proactive club, which involves the local community police officer. This is a testament to the potential for mountain biking to be both a rural and urban activity.

Recognising that the project needed a name and identity. It was decided the best name would be a 'does what it says on the tin' name. With that criteria in mind the project was

christened – 'Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland'

Our name, logo and brand were proudly on display at the UCI World Cup in Fort William – once again crowned the best event in the Downhill World Cup circuit.

To communicate with a wide range of audiences a website was developed – developingmountainbikinginscotland.com – to help the spread of information and best practice.

An 'Advocacy Pack' for the project which details clearly the benefits mountain biking brings to Scotland and what the project will do to aid its future development has been developed and is available to download on the website.

Progress is being made in putting together a guide to encourage people to get out on their bikes and when they are riding to ensure they are responsible users of the outdoors.

The national conference in October was an excellent event. Bringing together 165 attendees from a variety of different backgrounds. Feedback from the event shows that 85% of attendees gave the conference an overall rating of 4 or 5 (on a range of 1 – 5, with 5 being very good)

Aims for the conference were to inform, inspire and energise delegates to further develop mountain biking in their area. We believe the conference firmly met those aims and have built a momentum for the project to carry forward into 2011. ●

Development Clusters

This year the process of setting up a pilot development cluster in Tayside & Fife has started. Meetings have taken place with all the key groups within the area identifying the potential for increased co-ordination of existing projects and the potential for future development.

Alongside individual meetings there was a free consultation evening in June which saw over 40 attendees contributing to the process of deciding what the cluster should do and how the cluster would work.

Each local authority area will work in partnership to devise a plan which will feed into a regional plan ensuring we can get the maximum value from any current or future mountain biking resources.

Key community, public sector and private groups within the Tayside & Fife region were identified and invited to be part of a steering group.

The development cluster will become a place of action and will result in the development of mountain biking in Scotland. ●



Increasing Participation



It is well documented that the current perceived image of mountain biking is of an activity that is mainly for white middle class boys (of all ages) looking for an extreme fix.

It is really important that the participation base of mountain biking expands and more people are attracted to the activity by promoting all the levels of mountain biking not just the elite specialist end.

By demonstrating that nearly all people can dig their bike out from their shed and access a trail near to where they live.

Promoting the benefits that getting involved in mountain biking brings – such as improved health and fitness, enjoyment of the outdoors and, the often overlooked sociable side to mountain biking, which is the quality experiences you can share with your family and friends.

Once people start participating in mountain biking it is important they know what experiences, facilities, programmes, courses, events & competitions are available to them.

It is by joining up and co-ordinating the delivery of people's experiences in mountain biking that could influence and motivate an individual to stay involved in the activity.

To aid this process the project is developing a guide to help coaches, leaders and instructors, who in turn, will inspire individuals to take part in the activity and provide examples of good practice that can be spread across Scotland.

Working closely with national agencies the project aims to bring clarity to the range of mountain biking courses and ensure that these courses are developed in an integrated manner. ●

Trail Building & Management



Trail building and trail management is important for both financial and environmental reasons, our trails need to be well built and managed to ensure the increased use of these trails is sustainable.

The lead organisation in the development of 'A Good Practice Guide' is the Forestry Commission (FC).

For a number of years the FC has been building, managing and maintaining trails on their land throughout the UK. They have learnt many lessons and are keen to share their examples of best practice and the issues they have had to overcome over the years.

However this document will not just be a Forestry Commission document, it is our intention for the guide to be peer reviewed to ensure these standards, whilst being a guide, are adapted as best practice across the country.

To support this guide investigations are ongoing to the possibility of providing training courses to aid private businesses or community groups looking at trail building opportunities. This will hopefully ensure that mistakes of the past are not repeated in the future.

To follow on from these courses a range of courses will be suggested – at different levels – to provide additional knowledge and information for anyone looking to build, manage and maintain mountain bike trails.

By putting these steps in place will ensure high quality and sustainable trails in the future. ●

Partners



Key Achievements in 2010

- Winner of Junior European Downhill Championships.
- Bronze medal at Junior Downhill World Championships.
- 7 riders have been selected for the Downhill Academy for 2010/2011.
- 4 MTB XC riders have been accepted onto the GB Olympic Talent Programme (3 males, 1 female).
- 2 MTB XC riders (1 male, 1 female) have been retained onto the GB Olympic Development Programme.
- 1 x MTB XC rider (male) has been accepted onto the Olympic Academy.
- SC are continuing to be involved in discussions around securing 3 year partner commitment to the Fort William World Cup.
- The Scottish Mountain Bike Leader Award has been re-branded to Mountain Bike Leader Award to support wider recognition at a UK/Europe/International level.

Partnerships

- sportscotland financial



support to coaching and programme for Mountain Biking.

- sportscotland Institute of Sport support to talent and academy squad athletes includes sport science, lifestyle, strength & conditioning.
- Napier University are providing sports science & research support to the downhill programme.
- Scottish Power Renewables sponsorship support to Downhill Academy.
- MBLA Committee ongoing support in their advisory capacity in developing the award as well as contributions to, in particular, the progressing of the re-branding of the award & revising the publication of the Manual. ●

Cycling Scotland

Key Achievements in 2010

- Cycling Scotland is fully engaged in the work of Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland, and has aligned its mountain bike workstreams to support the work of SMBDC. Cycling Scotland has continued to develop the Go Mountain Bike Programme. Interest in Go MTB continues to grow with 65 Accredited Centres and 169 instructors who have been orientated into the scheme. Accredited outlets can be viewed online at the Cycling Scotland website.
- Cycling Scotland has provided communications support to the SMBDC, launching the framework and promoting the SMBDC conference. Cycling Scotland also took a co-ordinating role for the SMBDC presence at the Fort William Mountain Bike World Cup, making arrangements for an expo and skills activity alongside staff from Forestry Commission Scotland and SMBDC, to represent all partners on the consortium.
- Cycling Scotland is also engaging with Skills Active UK to



➤ Kids check out the Go Mountain Bike taster Session at the Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland stand at Fort William

explore the potential for a UK MTB Leadership qualification and supports the Mountain Bike Leader Association through the chairmanship of Jim Riach, Cycling Scotland's Senior Training and Education Officer. ●

EventScotland™

Key Achievements in 2010

→ EventScotland have continued to support mountain biking in 2010 through funding of relevant events that deliver a range of benefits to Scotland (and Scottish mountain biking), including economic impact, media profile, opportunities for participation and sports development.

→ In 2010 we again funded and supported the UCI Mountain Bike World Cup in Fort William which was once again voted the 'Best Downhill Mountain Bike Event' and Event of the Year at the Sunday Mail Sport Awards
→ We also supported the Three

10's mountain bike series in 2010, allowing No Fuss Events to undertake a target marketing campaign and exhibit at the Outdoor Show at the NEC, and consequently increase participants to record levels in 2010.

Partnerships

→ EventScotland works in partnership with event organisers, local authorities, HIE, Scottish Cycling, Cycling Scotland, British Cycling, Forestry Commission Scotland and the UCI to deliver all mountain bike events within the portfolio. ●



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➔ Mark Beaumont launches the New Active Guide October 2010 at the Adventure Travel World Summit

Key Achievements in 2010

→ Lead partner in hosting of the Adventure Travel World Summit (ATWS) in Aviemore - an international trade event where adventure travel experts from all over the world met to discover more about Scotland's world class adventure product offering as well as adventure products worldwide.

→ VisitScotland invited Mark Beaumont, the man who cycled the world, as a key speaker at the ATWS Opening Night's Gala Dinner for 600 international delegates promoting cycling, mountain biking and adventure sports to a key trade audience.

→ Oct 2010 New Active Guide published and launched at the ATWS by Mark Beaumont. The guide consolidated the Mountain

biking / Cycling Guide and the Adventure Guide, targeting beginners and dabblers rather than expert mountain bikers and cyclists and adventure junkies, through showcasing outdoor activities, mountain biking and cycling routes on offer by region rather than by activity.

→ Oct 2010 New Active website launched consolidating cycling and adventure websites providing consumers with a wide range of offers to entice them to trial outdoor activities with further enhancements due in 2011

→ 2011 is the Year of Active Scotland. The new Active Guide and website gives consumers a platform on which to discover more about the wide range of activities available across Scotland. ●

Partners



Scottish Natural Heritage Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba

All of nature for all of Scotland
Nàdar air fad airson Alba air fad

Key Achievements in 2010

→ Engaging in the Core Paths Planning process at a national, and a local level, and ensuring that local and national park authorities included consideration of the needs of off road cyclists in the consultation process and in the resultant plans.

→ Being a part of the developing partnership of the SMBDC, and seeing the Strategic Framework launched in February.

→ Contributing to a shared presence with Forestry Commission Scotland, Cycling Scotland, sportscotland and SNH at the Fort William UCI Mountain Bike World Cup and promoting the Scottish Outdoor Access Code alongside the Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland brand.

→ Helping to make the first Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland conference a success, especially in promoting the MTB Development Cluster concept.

→ Continuing to offer grant support towards relevant local



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projects, including help for three community groups on the edge of Edinburgh to fund detailed mountain biking trail design reports for local sites.

Partnerships

→ The continued development of the SMBDC provides the basis of the strategic partnership which will guide the development of mountain biking in Scotland; the provision of SNH funding towards the 3 year implementation programme has meant the building of a key partnership with Scottish Cycling. ●

sportscotland the national agency for sport

Key Achievements in 2010

→ An award of £67 000 was made from sportscotland's Sports Facility Fund to realign and upgrade the downhill track at Nevis Range and to develop some new trail features.

→ The award was made in recognition of the national importance of Nevis Range for mountain bike competition and training purposes.

→ sportscotland's investment was also intended to complement our previous investment of £77 000 in the new red route at Nevis Range.

→ sportscotland also invested £200 000 in the changing facilities at the Glentress Peel project which is now close to completion.

→ sportscotland has been an active participant in the Developing Mountain Biking project helping with the development of various work streams. We continue to part fund the project manager post and sit as a member of the Scottish Mountain Bike Development Consortium. sportscotland sponsored and



manned a shared stand at the mountain bike world cup village, at this year's mountain bike world cup at Nevis range.

→ We invested approaching £600 000 in Scottish Cycling 09-10 to develop cycle sport in Scotland and are working with local authorities to develop cycling, including mountain biking, at a local level. ●



Scottish Enterprise

Key Achievements in 2010

- ➔ Support towards the Glentress Peel Development, covering items such as road improvements, biomass, water recycling system as part of the overall promotion of mountain biking as a growth tourism activity.
- ➔ Developing long term

sustainable funding model for 7stanes to increase economic impact of the 7stanes through partnership working.

- ➔ Working with Scottish Borders Council and community representatives to investigate the feasibility of uplift facilities at Innerleithen. ●



➔ On the blue/red trail at 7stanes Newcastleton

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Key Achievements in 2010

CTC continues to develop its mountain bike offering in Scotland with representatives looking at a range of issues and opportunities.

- ➔ Representing the interests of cyclist on Local Access Forums dealing with the new Core Path systems

➔ Working with volunteer groups organising a range of activities from off-road group rides to volunteer trail care sessions.

- ➔ Bike Club Scotland was officially launched on 30th June 2010 in Glasgow, with special guest Dr Harry Burns delivering a key note speech.

➔ Bike Club in Scotland is funded by the ASDA foundation and Youth Scotland is working with the Bike Club consortium to deliver and manage the project.

- ➔ Two officers work to support and set up Bike Clubs in targeted areas of Scotland - Glasgow and Edinburgh, the Lothians, Fife and Falkirk.

➔ The target is to set up 74 Bike



➔ CTC Bike Club developing mountain bike skills

Club projects across these areas over 2 years.

- ➔ Four successful projects have been funded by Bike Club across Edinburgh & Fife with another 8 in the application process.

➔ Projects include delivering Go Mountain Bike activities and bike maintenance courses for young people. ●

Partners



Forestry Commission Scotland
Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba

Key Achievements in 2010

→ Through our own staff, volunteers and other stakeholders, FCS continues to maintain, and where possible, improve the 800kms of mountain biking on the national forest estate. There have been trail upgrades this year at 7stanes Ae, Mabie, Dalbeattie, Newcastleton and Glentress.

→ In Scottish Lowlands Forest District 800 metres of the Eas Dubh trail at Carron Valley has been upgraded to improve the rider experience and safety. FCS is working in partnership with the Carron Valley Partnership (North Lanark & Stirling Councils, Scottish Water and the Clan Ranald Trust) to develop recreation in the Carron Valley.

→ Progress on the new site and

buildings for the flagship

Glentress Peel Visitor Centre remains on schedule. FCS is working with sportscotland and Scottish Enterprise on this exciting project and the new facilities will open in April 2011.

→ FCS is working with Scottish Enterprise and local businesses and stakeholders in the South of Scotland to set up a 7stanes community interest company, which will lead the promotion of the 7stanes in future. This is likely to be in operation from April 2011.

Partnerships

→ FCS, working with various DMBiS partners, has made good in-roads into developing a National Trails Grading system. This again should be launched in 2011. ●



➤ Café and
Bike Hire/Sales
buildings at
Glentress Peel
Visitor Centre

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