Eden Valley Group of Cycling UK - Minutes of the AGM Meeting
17th October, Melmerby Village Hall 01:00pm

Present:
David Fenna, Mike Barron, Chris Johnson, Nigel Longworth, Adella Smart, Rachel Wilson, Gary Smart, Neil Weightman, Cecilia Emerey, Steve Wilkinson, Tony Lake, Claire Baron, Rosie Blanchard, Phil Blanchard, Phillipa Leach, Bill Holmes, Jeff Smith, Stuart Fletcher, Neil Gander (19)

Apologies:
Nigel Patrickson, Tony Sharples, Geoff Anderson, Mike Korner, Bill Openshaw, Pam Radcliffe, Tony Crooke, Mike Graham, James Rawes, John Roelich, Ian Ludlam, Kevin Smith. (12)

Len Williams
Mike Barron said a few words of kind remembrance of Len Williams, a long-standing member of the club who sadly died earlier this year, followed by a respectful period of silence.

2025 AGM
David Fenna noted that the minutes of the last AGM, held on 25 October 2025, have been long published on the club website and approved by the committee, and asked the meeting if any corrections were needed. None were, and the minutes were accepted.
There are no matters arising that do not appear elsewhere on this year's agenda.

Chairs Report Inc Safeguarding (David):
It's been my first year as Chair, and I must admit I have felt some trepidation taking this on and am hugely thankful for the help and support of the rest of the committee in fulfilling my duties. There have been 4 main things that have taken most of my attention in the past year, and to a degree these are permanent features of running a club.

1. **Updating and publicising policies and guidance, especially around safety**. A year ago, the main thing was updating guidance for group riding and enabling new preset self-led rides to take place. Broadly speaking, we take CUK documents as a template for our policies, but the usefulness of these has been variable, and in fact during the year CUK has reissued its guidance in a few areas, e.g. risk assessments and safeguarding. That means our policies need to be under periodic review and any significant changes to broadcast to members. Safety has to be the main focus, and policies have to be sufficiently measured so as not to stifle our enthusiasm to get out riding while at the same time ensuring ride leaders and riders do take appropriate care of themselves, fellow riders and the general public. On this matter I would encourage ride leaders to always do a short briefing at the start of each ride, pointing out hazards and covering key points of riding etiquette. Also to encourage riders more generally to continue to be aware of those around them and other road users. We have been fortunate this year not to have had any accidents on group rides, but there have been a few members on their own rides having bad crashes, always a reminder that cycling does carry risks.

2. **Communications, public face and promotion of the club**. The old website domain was changed over to a new site last New Year to help future-proof it and refresh its appearance. This has been very much the baby of Geoff and Tony, who thankfully have the skills to manage the WordPress site. It probably is not a baby anymore, more of a toddler now and has plenty of scope to develop further over time.
   We also launched a Facebook site for the club and have specifically done this as an extra public face/ awareness exercise rather than aiming to replace the website. I would encourage members to post photos, ride reports or interesting stories here for public consumption, as this helps promote the club and cycling in our region.
   To aid communication, primarily co-ordination of interest in attending rides or café meets, we have set up WhatsApp subgroups. The idea is that general chit-chat is on the main EV cycling WhatsApp group. Interest in attending self-led rides is on the café stop/self-led rides WhatsApp group, and likewise interest or questions about led rides go on the led rides WhatsApp group. This has had only moderate success, limited mainly by the inevitable mix-up at times as to which WhatsApp group to use. I would like to persevere with this, and as long as members join all 3 groups, no one will miss any info. All core member communications are by email from the members list via the monthly update.
   The club would welcome further expertise in running this and similar IT matters, especially as we are about to improve the safe storage and access of our key documents over the coming few months so that we can be sure all key data and documents are kept centrally and safely rather than on individual committee members' personal storage.
3. **Challenge event 2026.** This took up a lot of time and energy, and I believe was a great success. £1500 was raised for the Eden Valley Hospice, and more than half of the riders were not club members. This shows that these kinds of events are a useful mechanism to increase awareness of our club and provide a welcome cross-club activity, as well as encouraging us all to go the extra mile and have a longer cycling challenge than the usual weekly rides. We will be doing another event in 2027, probably around the Caldbeck/Nort East Lakes area. There was general support from the meeting for this event to take place in the Northeast Lakes, and Skelton as a suggested base due to the variety of rides available from it. Mungrisedale and Newbiggin near Stainton were also mentioned.
4. **Safeguarding.** CUK this year increased the attention given to safeguarding matters. Whilst there is no obligation for the club to provide a trained safeguarding officer, there is a requirement to ensure CUK policy and guidance is followed. For the time being I am taking on the role of safeguarding officer. We have recently added a link on our website to the CUK safeguarding policy and advice. Please refer to this for further info. For the most part, this is about ensuring the safeguarding needs of children and vulnerable adults are met and enabling anyone to raise a safeguarding concern to a trusted person in the club or, if necessary, with CUK. For the record, there have been no such issues raised in the past year.

That's it for now. In the other ideas section of the agenda, I would welcome ideas or views on other activities or events that may promote the club or add to social engagement amongst members. For example, Short Rides or MTB meets outside the Sunday-Wednesday schedule, or social meets e.g. slide shows/talks, anything really.

Secretary's Report (Nigel P): (Presented by David F)
My role as secretary has three parts, typing the minutes from our committee meetings, being the first contact for new members, and being the main contact with CUK.
On the **minutes**, I think I manage to capture most of the things discussed and no one complains afterwards so I assume I am mostly doing ok. Minutes are always published on the club web site for anyone to read.
On **new members** we have had quite a few this year, which is encouraging, I don't question how they find out about the club but assume a combination of the CUK website, EVCUK website, knowing someone already in the club, or meeting some of us out and about on the roads or in the coffee shops (especially when we are wearing the club kit). We also now have a face book page.
According to my records the club currently has 109 members, of which 30 are on the CUK register as ride leaders, and 11 form the committee.
It is a very simple process to be registered as a ride leader; there is information available on the CUK web site, just let myself, Geoff or any member of the committee know if you like to become a ride leader.
Interaction with CUK...
They did start out this year by sending a quarterly club newsletter (designed for cycling clubs rather than individuals), this is as well as the cycle clips email you can all get as a member of CUK. Only Secretary's received this and I forwarded on upon receipt, however these seems to have disappeared, and I haven't had one for a long time?

They have created a new tool which certain members of the committee have access, allowing us to check that all EV club members CUK membership is up to date. This is important to us, as all members of CUK carry a level of insurance, any registered ride leader also has liability insurance, and the club has insurance. Guests are allowed to join us for up to 3 rides and are still covered, beyond this they are expected to join CUK. Non-members (including expired memberships) taking part on club led rides can potentially affect the ride leaders and club insurance cover. I therefore try to do my due diligence ensuring everyone is an up-to-date member. On carrying out these checks it flagged up how often the club register details don't tally with the cycling UK details, many different reasons for this. Having accurate member details isn't critically important to us as a club, what is important is we have the correct ICE (In Case of Emergency) details, so it seems like a good idea that we periodically check for any change in details and also check you are still ok with the club holding a digital record of your details (in accordance with data protection laws GDPR) therefore at some point in the future I will contact you all to confirm some information and to update our records if required. Thanks for guidance from Geoff and David on this.

This year Cycling UK has updated its guidance for groups. There is a large amount of new documentation available on their website. I have not read this at length! It can at times be somewhat contradictory. The main topics of change it covers are;
Ride guidance, insurance, safeguarding, and inclusivity.

These have been discussed at length in various committee meetings and minuted so I don't want to cover them again here but suffice is to say the committee have worked hard to make sure we stay up to date with CUK guidance.

Treasurer's Report (Tony): (Presented by David F)
Attention was also drawn to the published accounts for 24-25 which have been published on the club website for some time now and which have already been approved by the committee. These showed a surplus of £6.83 for the year to 31 March 2026 and net assets of £2357.76, comprising cash in the Cumberland Building society (£2243), cash in the RBS (£72) and petty cash of £42. Most is held in the Cumberland which is harder to access with smaller working balances held in the online banking account with RBS.
Below, please find the accounts for this financial year.
Note, we can now confirm that we have received the £250.00 CUK Annual Subscription Allocation.
Since the end of the financial year, we have held the Challenge Ride but as the event was supporting Eden Valley Hospice, the accounts show that we have a zero surplus/deficit.
The surplus from the event was £1,033.66. We also received £127.08 from the charity bucket on the day and a further £265 via the "Just Giving" page. So, the event raised £1,425.74 and with gift aid this took it to just over £1,500.00.
With the £250.00 CUK allocation the intention is to use this to subsidise first-time buyers of the club kit and to further fund club events next year.

EDEN VALLEY CYCLING UK Interim Summary for April 2026 to October 2026

Since the end of the financial year we have held the Challenge Ride but as the event was supporting Eden Hopice the accounts show that we have a zero surplus/deficiet.

From below you can see the surplus from the event was £1033.66. We also received £127.08 from the charity bucket on the day and a further £265 via the "Just Giving" page.

So the event raised £1425.74 and with gift aid this would make it just over £1500.00

We have requested the £250.00 CUK Annual Subscription Allocaction which may be in our account in September.

	Opening Balance	Closing Balance	Surplus / Deficiet
Cumberland Building Society	£2,242.64	£2,102.64	
RBS Digital Account	£73.43	£213.43	
CBS & RBS Accounts	£2,316.07	£2,316.07	
Petty Cash	£41.69	£41.69	
	£2,357.76	£2,357.76	£0.00

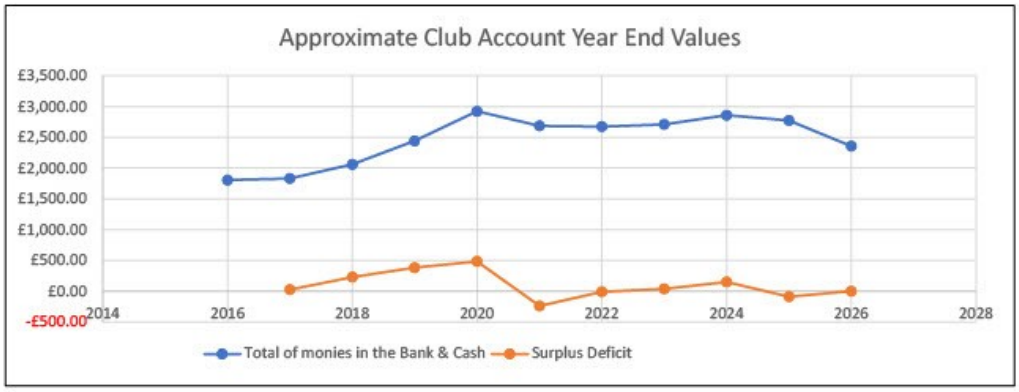
Challenge Ride 28/June/2026	**Income**	**Expenditure**	
Event Entry Fees	£610.00		
Event Charity Donations	£640.00		
Event Costs (Hire of Langwathby Hall)		£192.00	
Refreshments		£24.34	
Cash Charity Donations (Bucket)			
Just Giving Page			
Totals	£1,250.00	£216.34	£1,033.66

Club Clothing	**Income**	**Expenditure**	
Receipts			£0.00
Over Payments refunded			£0.00
Totals	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

	Income	**Expenditure**	
AGM			£0.00
CUK Annual Subscription Allocation			£0.00
Website Fees			£0.00
			£0.00

Totals	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

Approximate Club Account Year End Values			
Year	Total of monies in the Bank & Cash	Surplus Deficit	HQ Contribution
2027	£2,357.76	£0.00	
2026	£2,357.76	£6.83	£250.00
2025	£2,350.93	-£422.58	£0.00
2024	£2,773.00	-£87.00	£0.00
2023	£2,860.00	£274.00	£0.00
2022	£2,586.00	-£88.00	£0.00
2021	£2,674.00	-£10.00	£0.00
2020	£2,684.00	-£240.00	£0.00
2019	£2,924.00	£484.00	£0.00
2018	£2,440.00	£380.00	£200.00
2017	£2,060.00	£229.00	£200.00
2016	£1,831.00	£25.00	£200.00
2015	£1,806.00		£200.00



Runs Co-ordinator's Report (Mike B):

The club aims to offer two rides each Wednesday and Sunday (a grade 2 and a grade 3). In practice we have only been able to offer two rides on 5 days. Most led rides have been 'grade 3'.

All the figures I'm giving relate to the period January to September.

In detail 50 rides have been offered over the 80 days available, so we are providing led rides on 62% of occasions. Ideally, we should be aiming for 100%, so we have some way to go. We have a wonderful core of regular leaders, and they deserve much praise but really, we should be looking for new leaders to come forward and plug the gaps!

The grade 3 rides prove very popular. As you know, I really need to hand this the role of Runs Co-ordinator on, and it would be good if someone who regularly attends these rides could take over. They would be in a much better position to nudge these keen and active riders to contribute to the runs list. It is not fair to expect the regular leaders to fill the gaps.

The self-led rides have not proved particularly successful and only occasionally have they been ridden. However, now that we give advance notice of the next two ride days on the first page of our web page, it certainly acts as "window dressing" as it always looks as though we are offering something! So, I would advise that we continue to advertise them.

There is a good core of members who regularly ride out to the coffee stops. Now it seems that the programme for arranging café dates is also part of the Runs Co-ordinators job. Cafes sometimes close and new ones become available. Summer and winter café stops vary. The Run's Co-ordinator currently relies on comments and suggestions from members, and this seems to work quite well.

I look forward to working with a new co-ordinator to smooth out the take-over!

Runs registration officer report (CJ)

Chris Johnson presented his report showing statistics of member attendance over the past year and showing trends of the past decade (see below). Chris also noted that he no longer wished to be on the committee but will continue to collate the statistics.

ATTENDANCE FIGURES and STATISTICS : EV CUK AGM – 17 th Oct 2026

Summary of performance **From 1 st October 2025 to 30 th September 2026**

Active Members = 59 (Members who attended at least 1 ride)
Total Attendance = 1173 (Ride outings achieved by all members and all guests)
Rides Ridden = 172 (Cat C = 84, Cat 2 = 30, Cat 3 = 52 , Off Road = 1)

Active membership (Number of EV members who rode at least one ride during the year)

Table 1 – Active EV members over past 10 years										
Year	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	# 2023	23/24	24/25	25/26
Active Membership	90	96	86	73	19	61	62	58	66	59

Notes
1. # From April to September 2023
2. EV Membership available to ride = 101 as of 13 th Oct 2026

Overall Attendances and Rides ridden

		Number of Rides Ridden					
Year	Total Att	£ Café Self Led	Grade 2 Moderate	Grade 3 Hard	$ Off Road / Gravel	Totals	Comments
15 – 16	1741	105	33	82	0	220	12 months
16 – 17	1763	96	62	87	0	245	October to
17 – 18	1471	98	67	67	1	239	
18 – 19	1388	104	66	62	15	247	September
19 – 20	682	46	32	32	4	110	
20 – 21	57	7	2	8	0	17	Covid restrictions
21 – 22	937	56	51	56	12	175	Cuk AGM changes
Apr/Sep 23	774	52	29	40	1	122	Apr 23 to Sept 23
23 – 24	1394	94	53	66	2	219	Oct 23 to Sept 24
24 – 25	1431	114	29	60	2	205	Oct 24 to Sept 25
25 - 26	1173	84	30	52	1	172	Oct 25 to Sept 26

£ Café / Self Led rides are the total figures for those who attended the " Self Led Rides " and those who rode alone.

$ Off Road / Gravel figures are the combined numbers for those who attended these rides

Resume

- Active membership : 59
- Ride Grade percentages :-

  Café = 49 %, Grade 2 = 17 %, Grade 3 = 30 %, Off Road / Gravel = 1 %

- The uptake of 59 riders represents 58 % of the membership available to ride

- Total Attendances : 1173
- Number of Rides Ridden : 172

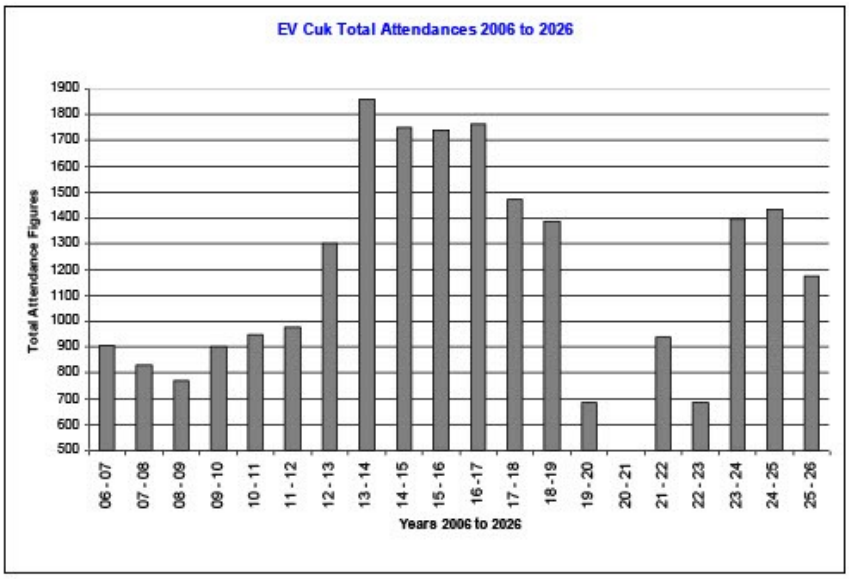
- Guest attendances for year : 56 (0.5 % of the total attendances)
- The accuracy of all figures relies on reporting by members and the (in)competence of the compiler
- Thanks are given to all leaders for their continuing support without whom there would be no rides

C.Johnson. EV Cuk Rides Attendances and Statistics Verifier Issue 9 : 24/10/26

PTO / for Appendices

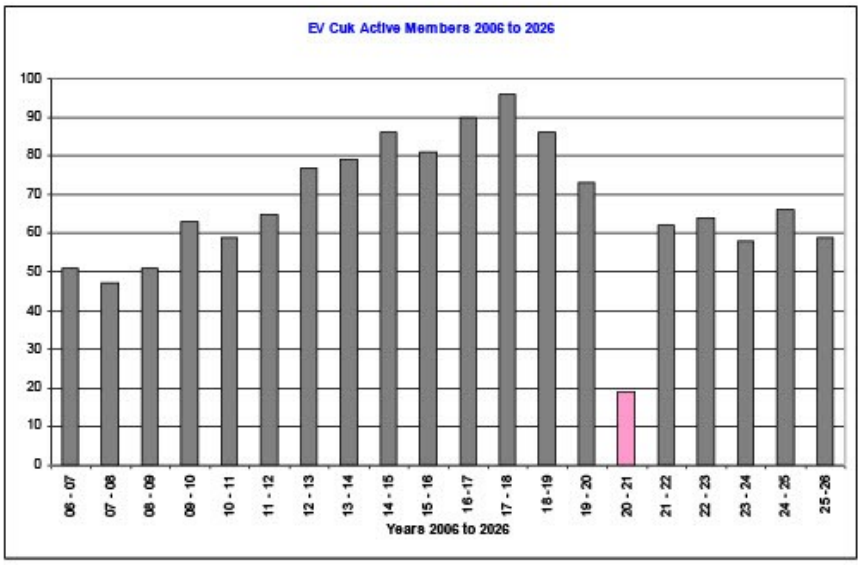
Appendices

Appendix 1 – Total Attendances 2006 to 2026



Note : Pandemic restrictions in force between 2020 and 2021 – Attendances only 57

Appendix 2 – Active Membership 2006 to 2026



Note : Pandemic restrictions in force between 2020 and 2021 – Only 19 Active Members

Registration Officer and Webmaster Report (Geoff)

Registration

I have already expressed an opinion re the Cycling UK Security of data demands and provided we ask all members who are registered if we may use data in the restricted way we do; (i.e. password protected and only available to registered members) so long as we check that the information is correct/up to date all should be OK.

I maintain the lists on the website and any changes should be sent via the Secretary to me. From time to time (possibly yearly) we should send an email to all members e.g.

'Please check the information on the address and ICE lists pertaining to you is correct and up to date' together with a disclaimer like - "You are receiving this email because you have registered with the Eden Valley Group and have agreed that the information on the lists is made available to other registered members. If you no longer want to be registered with the group and want the information removed, please let Nigel the secretary know nigel_i_p@yahoo.com "

Website

At some stage in the future (before Feb 17, 2029) the account for our website needs moving to an official Eden Valley account or another individual (e.g. Tony S). Whilst at present, all those who need, have access to the site, I would be happier if it was moved somewhere where I did not have responsibility!!? The simplest answer might be to open another section of hosting with Hostinger and move the domain and website across. We will see if it is possible simply to change Names and Addresses on the account, but I fear it may not be!

Tony and I can perhaps sort this out during the next year?

Campaigns/Promotions Officer (NigelL):

Nigel Longworth started by noting that he would like to relinquish this role so it can be picked up by another committee member. This will be addressed at a later date when the full committee is present.

1. **General Club Activity**: I suspect that we can best promote cycling by just riding our bikes.
   1.1 (Club Strip) How often do we see other cyclists and groups of cyclists eating, drinking and talking when we are doing the same thing? I would say very often.
   1.2 How often are we asked whether we are riding with a club? The answer to this is dependent on whether we can be identified by the outfit worn, i.e. wearing Club Strip. Sometimes most of our riders are wearing our colours and we need not be asked though this often initiates conversation about our club. Even when only one of us is sporting our vest or Gillet we enhance our chance to say what we do and recruit accordingly.
   1.3 Please remember to wear the strip, better worn than hiding in a drawer. Your committee is arranging for discounts; your first item does come with a discount and there are the discounts available on Orders in sufficient numbers.
   1.4 Challenge Ride: Since our last AGM we have had our ride in the June this year which attracted over 60 riders. Many were return riders from our previous events. We were assisted by the loan of some 'Caution' Road Signs by Border City Wheelers again (incidentally creating interest from their members). I think there are far fewer such events than a few years ago and this trend could continue. Monies raised for Eden Hospice at Home is appreciated too.

1.5 (Facebook): This year has seen our first use for the Club. We hope that our profile will be further lifted.

2. Cumbria Bicycle Mayor: I am no longer on the Committee for this.
   2.1 I have received emails seeking support for some initiatives this year
   2.2 Carlisle southern bypass and the Councils' involvements now completed.
   2.3 WaFC and Cumberland Councils are seeking to make the route from the south of Cumbria to the North more cycle friendly. This is being done in sections. The Councils have published Consultations on the parts between Grasmere and Keswick (the southern part - WAFC) and further north (Cumberland Council) have been published. Considerable thought clearly has been engaged by the Councils which I applaud. Maybe more could be done but expense would be likely to kill the project entirely; this is the factor I have applied in my 'positive' representations.
3. Walk Wheel Cycle Trust (possibly still better known by its abandoned name 'Sustrans'): I continue to receive news and requests for assistance. Please do offer your support if you can.
4. A66 dualling: the development can be seen to have been commenced this year. Riding bikes (and horses I think) have been banned, certainly at the Penrith end. Personally, I would not try to ride on it; even years ago it was terrifying. When the project is finished, we should be able to ride from Penrith to Scotch Corner without putting a foot down or cycle tyre on the A66. Roll on 2029.

Appointment of person to verify the accounts next year:
Gill Sharpe was approved as an independent person to verify the accounts, provided she is still agreeable to do so.

Elections:
The committee as per the constitution, resigned and the meeting agreed to their reinstatement except for Chris Johnson who, as noted above, wishes to leave the committee. It was noted that Mike Baron wishes to resign once a replacement rides coordinator is appointed.
Geoff Anderson would also like to resign as a committee member but is willing to carry on the rolls of Registrations Office and Webmaster if this is agreeable by the committee. (Received via Committee WhatsApp group)

Officer appointments:
David Fenna was reappointed as Chair
Tony Sharples reappointed as Treasurer
Nigel Patrickson reappointed as Secretary
Mike Barron (Runs Coordinator until further notice)
Nigel Longwotth (Campaigns and Promotions Office until further notice)
Adella Smart (co-opted member)
Rachel Wilson (co-opted member)
Mike Korner (co-opted member)
Bill Openshaw (co-opted member)

Any Other Business

- Socials/Events

    - Festive Lunch: this has been booked for Saturday January 9th, 12:30 for 1:00pm serving. at the Roundthorn Country Hotel, Penrith. Final menu choices are to be circulated, together with booking information, in due course.
    - Holiday – the club had a successful 2026 holiday in the Pyrenees via Marmit cycle tours, and a few limited spaces may be available for the 2027 holiday in the Picos, Spain. Please contact Phil Blanchard or, better, Marmot Tours directly, ensuring you mention Eden Valley membership to ensure the correct discounted price.
    - Long Weekend 2027 – Following the second trip to Cote Ghyll, North York Moors in 2026, which was even more popular than in 2025, the same location/ venue was suggested for 2027.
    - Challenge Ride 2027 – already covered in the Chairs report. Need to check no clash with Air Ambulance charity ride, as well as the usual event clash risk (e.g. Fred Whitton), and to take care of routes crossing the A66/avoid it.
- Feedback/other ideas: a few great ideas were suggested.
    - MTB Fridays once a month suggested
    - Glasgow cycle track instruction event suggested
    - Treasure hunt by bike with pub finish suggested.
    - Check/confirm the club bank accounts have free banking

Date and venue of 2027 AGM

The Melmerby Village Hall was an excellent venue, so it is intended to try for the same venue at a similar date in 2027; the precise date to be set in due course.