

North Lanarkshire Scramble and Quad Bike Club

Annual Report 2011



photo: Kevin Young – Calum and Glen Dunn



NLSQBC Limited Company No SC299030

Annual Report 2011

Introduction

This report is a record of what the club has provided and achieved throughout 2011 in highlighting the many successes, and to take this opportunity to thank club parents/volunteers in the ongoing development of meeting the clubs aims and objectives, and delivering the ethos of the club

Foreword

North Lanarkshire Scramble and Quad Bike Club members have again delivered an excellent range of programmes and are recognised for the high standard of achievement by providing Events, Training and Coaching with fun and enjoyment giving opportunities for young riders to learn and enjoy access to a safe venue. This is a credit to all the parents and volunteers giving young people proper facilities, stopping them from being criminalised for having an exciting hobby

Andy Russell

NLSQBC Honorary Member

Chairperson Report

I am again pleased to produce this annual report which I hope will give you an insight into the width and breath of what the club has achieved in 2011

I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank **North Lanarkshire Council** for their continued support in assisting the club to deliver its annual events programme, through commitment of many Council staff and their resources, through working in partnership to achieve a common goal

Balbackie Events

We have had another good year, although again event attendance is down. This is due to some older members moving to competitive riding or other interests, which is a natural progression for young people looking for new challenges,

with Mitchell Young winning "The Quad Racing Scotland 100cc Modified Quads Championship"

Also Russell Brown who went through SACU Race Academy and has made great progress into Road Racing on the UK Circuit

Quad riders are also doing exceedingly well in the competitive ratings proving that leisure clubs are a feeder to racing in a number of different disciplines

We seriously need to recruit new members for 2012 **"so I set you all a challenge to find and bring a new member along for the start of 2012"**

I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank all the members who assisted with track maintenance throughout the year.

Also members who representing SACU at the Outdoors Exhibition in Edinburgh and providing support at the Strathclyde Police - Choices for Life, Coatbridge Main Street Fair, North Lanarkshire Palacerigg Country Park Open Day, attending Caldercruix and Viewpark Community Activity Day

Thanks to all the young volunteer members who fulfil many roles from shop keepers, litter pickers, looking after new members, showing friendship, along with happy and dirty faces, enjoying the atmosphere of their club events

I am pleased to report that most of our events for 2011 took place except two which were cancelled due to bad weather.

2011 Awards

The annual presentation dance on the 25th November attracted over 130 people and was a big success.

Forty four of our members received Awards for living up to the club Code of Conduct

There are so many people working behind the scenes (*people who are not even members of the club*) who contribute in so many different ways in assisting our club to move forward, to them all we sincerely thank them for their commitment and efforts

Thanks to all Parents and Volunteers

While these awards highlight outstanding commitment to the club,

I would like to also thank all parents /volunteers who play a major part in making our events enjoyable and safe, through your commitment to the club **"THANK YOU"**

What does the future hold for the club, good question? Unless we can attract new members, then we face the ongoing problem of not being able to meet track maintenance costs which exceed £4000 pounds annually.

These events require that we attract 32 plus of our members attending all the events throughout the session, so we need to attract an estimate of around 40 new members to the club.

NLSQBC members representing SACU at the Outdoors Exhibition - Edinburgh



Taylor Barr

John Muir Trust

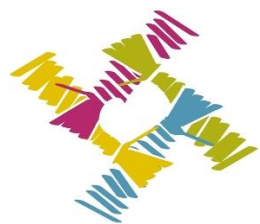
John Muir Trust - Environment Award

We have some members who are currently undertaking the Discovery or Explorer Award to which we intend to have them completed over the winter period

I am pleased to report that the Bird and Bat Boxes we built and put up 2009, many were used in the spring and summer of 2011 for nesting and they will provide shelter over the winter. Balbackie is an excellent area to see many species of birds and other forms of wildlife

Volunteer Development Scotland

We are members of VDS who represent the volunteer sector in Scotland assisting in providing training and support to all types of volunteer bodies VDS represents the views and concerns of the voluntary sector to the Scottish Government and the European Parliament .



The European
Year of Volunteering
2011



NLSQBC is also a member of Volunteer Action North Lanarkshire (VCNL) providing training and opportunity.

At a more local level they process our club Police Enhanced Disclosure Checks for Child Protection.

They also provide Committee Skills and various other topics affecting volunteers.

I am pleased to let you know that the club has received a **VOSCARS** - Judges Commendation in the Award Category **"Promoting Safer Communities"** at their awards evening in November. It is nice to see others identifying and recognising the important service we provide



Scottish Youth Parliament

It is with great pleasure to announce that **Kaley McLennan** has been invited to become a member of the **Scottish Youth Parliament**

(Kaley has been a very active member of the club for many years until her quad was stolen. She has also represented the club at our three day Petition Exhibition in the Scottish Parliament-2007 and the club was responsible along with her school in putting her forward for election back in September)

2011 Annual Awards



“Note: all photos of the Dance can be viewed on nlsqbc - Facebook”

The Club has four new Annual Trophies with the wishes of the Coats' family in memory of Brian who sadly died in November 2009. These annual awards are given in recognition of young people's efforts and commitment to the club



The Brian Coat's Awards 2011
Recognising a Young Members Outstanding Contribution to the Club
Presented to Robbie and Calum Simpson, William Matheson, Taylor Barr and Mitchell Young

**The Barr Award is presented-Annually
for Outstanding Personal Development by a New Rider Award
2011 Winner is HARLEIGH FRASER**

This year awards go to a young lady who has shown outstanding drive and riding ability
This Award recognises her sheer love and determination to participate in this demanding sport
Theo Pijper of the Glasgow Tigers, while visiting Balbackie, (who is a Dutch International Grass Track Rider) and
is in the top five in the World, made a comment on Harleigh's ability

He said of this young lady, "she is **really good** an excellent rider"

Fun in the Mud Award 2011

The club also thanks Andy Russell for putting up the "**Fun in the Mud Award**" presented this year
to **Dale McCardle** by Andrew Russell Junior

Youth Council Thank You Award

Was presented to **Mark Matherson** for his commitment as our Web Marshal

Youth Council Special Award 2011

This year's award was presented to Paul Davidson
for his outstanding effort, and long-term committed to the club
Paul has carried out the Clerk of the Course of the small track for many years and continues to fulfil that duty,
although Kyle his son has moved to the large track a number of years ago

NLSQBC Volunteer of the Year Award 2011

This year's award was presented to **Nicola Campbell** for her personal commitment over a number of years in
supporting the club, by volunteering at all events, assisting in a number with duties of Treasurer, Event
Registration, Toilet Cleaner etc. Nicola also supports all track maintenance days and has a true commitment and
works endlessly at supporting and filling the many roles over the years

NLSQBC Working Relationship with Strathclyde Police

NLSQBC has been greatly supported since our formation in 2002 by assistance from Strathclyde Police in starting up the club, helping to finding a facility where young people could enjoy their sport hobby in safety as sadly young people in Lanarkshire were having serious accidents on bikes and quads with some resulting in death

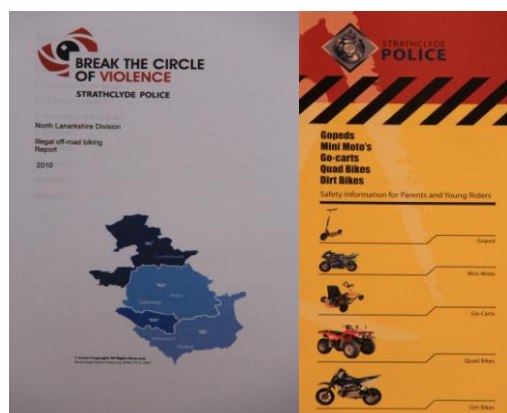
Police Officers, from Chief Inspector to Constable in N Division assisted us in finding funding, finding a site with the efforts of Constable Brian Wright (*Retired and Honorary Member who played a major part in establishing the club*)

Today the club is still greatly involved with N Division in promoting safe biking, by attending various Police events concerning road safety, allowing us to promote what we offer as a club.

The Police are members of the North Lanarkshire Council Off-road Biking Working Group with Constables Davy Cunning and John Carty being involved throughout 2010 -11



Coatbridge Street Fair July 2011



Lothian and Borders Police

We are supported and assisted also by Lothian and Borders Police who direct young riders to the club
The club was invited this year to attend a three day **Major Road Safety Campaign** called “**West Drive**” to 1,800 sixth year school students from throughout West Lothian This campaign was highlighting all aspect of the law relating to Driving, Drink, Drugs and Speed giving advice on all the dangers, and the types of accidents caused by inexperienced young drivers



The Bob Mac Gregor Trials Academy Visit

The club thanks Iain Shankie and Jim Kerr for their invitation to take eight of our members for a introduction to Trials Riding at the Academy in East Ayrshire. Our members had a great day trying something new, and we hope to arrange another visit in 2012



Adam Taylor

Balbackie Tracks are subject to Annual Inspection and Certification, allowing us to qualify for SACU Event Permits required to secure Insurance and permission to hold events



2011 OUTCOMES

- *During 2011 the club completed 480 rider days,*
- *Amounting to 2,400 hours of track time*
- *Converted to distance riding equalling 115,000 kilometres*
- *On a facility the size of 4 Football Pitches*
- *Removing 2400 hours of Noise equal to 100 days and removing danger and disturbance away from Communities*
- *Making savings for Police, Local Authorities and Health Boards*
- *These are year on year savings*

Cost of Maintaining our Tracks

The Balbackie track's annual maintenance cost is over £4,000 which is the club's major annual outlay proving our commitment to maintain the track, by having a Plant Contractor providing a JCB Machine and Operator every Friday before the event.

The club would like to thank all those who came along to volunteer to fix safety fences and road repairs. Without that support from Parents and Riders, then the standards cannot be maintained and events would not be possible on the facility

Damside

Last year I was pleased to announce at last, that the Central Scotland Off-Road Motor Bike Trust had become a registered charity in November 2010

The Trust was able to hold discussion with the landowner agency concerning the possibility to develop the site as a Centre of Excellence in North Lanarkshire.

The North Lanarkshire Council Off-Road Initiative had commissioned Sound Consultants who have completed a full survey of Damside which is conditional in meeting the Planning Regulations' strict noise rules

The Trust had Trustees from North Lanarkshire Council, SACU and NLSQBC

During 2011 outline plans were prepared and an outline Planning Application was submitted to the Council and two Public Community Consultation were carried out - *How long will it take?*

Last year I said "keep your fingers crossed".

Within the proceeding time the SACU have withdrawn any direct involvement with the Trust, only willing to allow the Trust to affiliate to the Union

due to the Vision to have a Centre of Excellence in North Lanarkshire, supported by the Council, SACU and NLSQBC back in 2003 This current decision by SACU is very disappointing as to them withdrawing support for such a facility be withdrawn

This has meant that the Trust has had to be disbanded one year on.

I am extremely disappointed as to this outcome, after eight years of hard work by many people, who had a VISION, but unless we have the support of the National Governing Body for the Sport, the Trust would have found seeking major funding very difficult.

This was one of the reasons on which Andy Russell SACU President decided to resign back in October

I also resigned in September as SACU Director of Leisure due to SACU negative decisions, relating to SACU sending back major funding, which I and Eric Jones had worked hard to secure from the Scottish Government and sportscotland for the future development of all the disciplines of the Union. It amounted to funding for five years, amount to ¼ Million pounds to establish the prestigious post of a National Development Manager to develop all sectors of the Sport into the Future.

The only light I can offer is that I have now submitted a report to North Lanarkshire Council to seek a meeting to investigate if the Council and Senior Officers and NL Leisure would review and consider promoting a new initiative, to which we would be willing to be involved in

The club still has a good facility at Balbackie which deliver I believe, is value to lots of beginners into the sport/hobby

SACU

Due to these developments by the Union who are currently (*November/ December*) are having discussion on Leisure we have not been included in any of the discussions

The club now needs to considers its long-term relationship with the Union to evaluate, "are we really welcome within their midst", as some disciplines seem to have a problem with LEISURE

West of Scotland University

Last year the club qualified for an "**Inspired Project**" to research and develop a prototype adaption to reduce bike and quads' exhaust noise on leisure machines. This development was funded through the Scottish Government and European Development Fund and has now been completed with limited results.

I would like to thank Andy Russell for donating a bike to the University for the Research, also **Dynotech Ecosse Glasgow** for assisting the project by using their Test Dyno Centre.

The project was also assisted by North Lanarkshire Council, Planning Environmental Officer Paul Black.

The good news is that the topic is now being adopted by the University for Students to work on, starting in February 2012

Level of Training

2011 has been a year where the club continued to provide opportunities for training at many levels from Coaching Courses, First Aid, internal training for Committee Skills, Event Management, Rider Training and Machine Maintenance Courses

We thank Andy Russell and his son Andrew for providing various training days for over 20 of our riders, giving them professional training in making them better and safer riders



Andrew Russell

NLSQBC Machine Maintenance Sessions

The club provide an introduction day to basic bike maintenance training in November which was well attended to which some participants went on to do the Motherwell College Course

Motherwell Collage



We have again been able to provide in association with Motherwell College, an eight week Machine Maintenance Course, which is provided as a evening class to which we have 13 participants five being young riders ranging from 14 year old.

The course started on November and will finish in February



Sponsorship

Helping to deliver the



Central Scotland Green Network



The Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) is the largest green network project of its kind in Europe.

It will transform the landscape of Central Scotland and enhance the lives of the people who live and work in Central Scotland

The Club is very grateful to be awarded a CSGN Grant to assist in buying material and hiring plant to repair the track into the facilities which is also a Way-mark walkway route

Youth-link Scotland - Cash Back to Communities

The club is also grateful to being awarded a Cash Back to Communities Grant to provide various Certificated Courses from Young Leader Award, Day Certificate in Sport Leadership and levels 1 and 2 Award in Sport Leadership and First Aid Courses. These courses will involve 40 club members and be completed by April 2012



Promoting the Club

Exposure, Articles and Communication

We have been active in promoting the club through local STV Web sites across Central Scotland and Radio Clyde and links to other web sites and our Poster campaign but “word of mouth” is still an important method. It is important that every opportunity is taken to promote what we do

Scottish Parliament Touring Exhibition “Moving Stories”

This Scottish Exhibition which includes a section which feature on our club, has now entered into its third year of touring Scotland, from its cities and towns, to villages in the Outer Hebrides and Shetlands receiving over 250,000 visitors, plus promoting it in local and national news papers and local and regional radio

The Exhibitions returned to Holyrood for the opening of Parliament on the 1st of July to which I was proud to be officially presented to the Queen

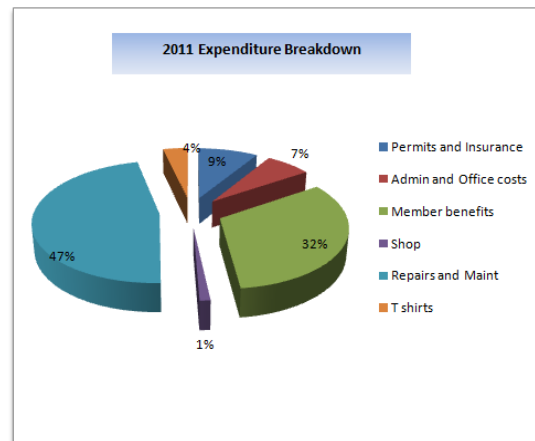
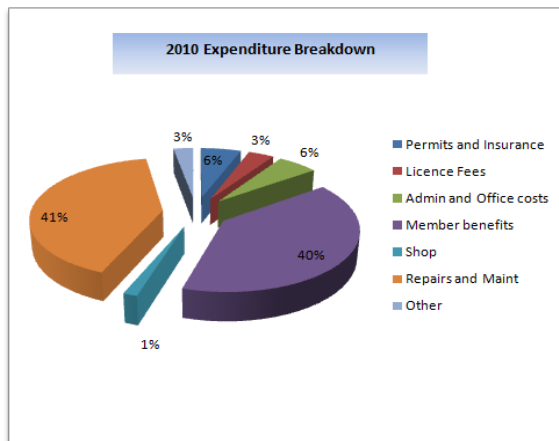


We have also featured on many web sites. It is important that our club continues to create awareness to the wider general public of our aims



The club's unique review which was carried out by **Greenspace Scotland undertaking a Social Return on Investment** study has now been completed with a final outcome value of £7 return for every £1 invested in the club. The full report is excisable on our web site

NLSQBC Expenditure - 2011



These pie charts for 2011 indicating that the club is still meeting and delivering near to the same targets of provision. There is a drop by 8% to 32% in members' benefits, and 9% of our income required in meeting SACU Licence permits and Insurance costs, (*again the same drop as last year due to the fall in riders attending*)

The largest amount 47% went to meeting Track Maintenance fees (*this is the second year that we have had to meet this cost*), the remainder being for administration, office costs and shop stock

To concluded the club has had like others clubs, has seen a reduction in attendance at events, due to the current recession, but by raising track fees in 2010 by £2 we are again ended with a loss, to which we will need to be more prudent in 2012-13

Importantly we have maintained that our "member benefits" have almost remained the same as previous years, giving value for rider fees

If we don't attract new members to bring income to the running of the club, if not, then in 2012/13 we will experience another loss, which is currently around £1,000 annually

NLSQBC Web Sites

The nlsqbc email nlsqbc@btinternet.com and also a Text message system, has become a very important tool in allowing the club members to keep in touch, through update, reminders and announcements like event cancellations etc, so please make sure Nicola has your most up to date current mobile number and email address **(if you don't, then we can't keep you informed)**

The **nlsqbc Facebook** has also been established, so please feel free to post items on it, we also hope in 2012 to sign up with twitter

Conclusion

2012 is going to be an important year for the club, members coming together in working to secure the long-term future of the club

That can only be achieved by the ongoing commitment from parents and members

We do need to get more members into the club to secure the REQUIRED income to continue

We also need to be seen to be raise funds by the membership efforts, such as supporting the forth coming Bag Packing Event in May 2012 of which we have 20 checkout points to man, which would bring a large amount of money for one days effort, many funders expect groups to also fund raise

“The journey of this club, has been one of setting high standards for others to follow”

Thank You

Bob Reid

NLSQBC Chairperson

January 2012

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