

Director Standing for Re-election Scottish Cycling AGM – 25 November 2023

Colin Allanach

My professional background is in engineering and engineering management. I am business focused, project driven, customer engaged (I strongly believe that all our clubs and all our members are our number one customer) and motivated through a desire for continuous improvement. I have an MBA from RGU. I have run my own consultancy project management business. I have been retired from my main job since 2022 and consider cycling and cycling associated activities my primary career now.

In cycling I am a committee member, coach, ride leader, Limitless and Rock up and Ride coordinator, and event organiser for my club, Ythan Cycle Club. I am also the chair of Grampian Regional Development Group and a director of Nestrans, the north-east transport committee, as active travel consultee. Recent projects for Nestrans include helping with the development of the Aberdeenshire Ascents project, the NE250 cycle route and work starting on the Grampian cross region cycle routes. I was an enthusiastic but mediocre racing cyclist in my time. I tried most types of cycle sport with little success but loved the buzz of racing, the friendly cycling community and seeing others do well and so fell in love with cycle sport and I have a strong passion for developing our sport for everyone whether for competitive cyclists or for leisure and recreational cyclists.

My background in club and regional cycling gives me a key understanding of how decisions made at board level affect those at the front line of the sport.

I have been a non-executive director at Scottish Cycling since November 2020. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on the board and believe I have made a valuable contribution towards the development of the new Scottish Cycling Strategy and in particular looking at how the organisation juggles the challenging strategy of maintaining its core activities of competitive cycle sport whilst building a strong foothold in leisure and recreational sport cycling. There is no doubt that the traditional side of cycle sport is facing challenges with the cost-of-living crisis, post covid declines, increasing burdens on organisers and alternative cycling and other sport activities for sporting individuals. This has led to fewer races and participants. Yet these races are an important part of the core lifeblood of our sport and the area where those juniors aspiring to greatness can learn their trade. I believe reversing this drop-off one of the most important challenges that we need to address over the next three years. On the positive side, there are so many new opportunities as part of the increasing diversity of disciplines in cycle sport and Scottish Cycling must ensure we are leading the growth in those events.

I believe strongly in the development of youth cycling, and cycling for those with additional support needs, giving more people in the whole of Scotland the opportunity to enjoy our fantastic sport. I have been involved with the Rock Up and Ride and Limitless projects for people with additional support needs, which has given me a new insight into the challenges and barriers some of our customers face when trying to access cycling.

Over the past few years, I have served on the landscape committee and the development and participation committee helping ensure Scottish Cycling's role in cycling is well established as the governing body for competitive cycle sport and leisure and recreational cycle sport. The mantra 'Sport for all, sport for life' is very much how I see Scottish Cycling developing in the future.

If I successfully retain my position on the board I am looking forward to the hard work going forward; there is so much more to do.