



THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE TAKE PART IN SCOTLAND'S BIGGEST BIKE EVENT, PEDAL FOR SCOTLAND

Over 7000 people set off from Glasgow Green for Pedal for Scotland - the nation's biggest bike event, organised by Cycling Scotland

Over 7000 people set off from Glasgow Green today (10 September) with Edinburgh in their sights as they took part in Pedal for Scotland – the 19th year of Scotland's biggest bike event.

Scotland's Minister for Transport, Humza Yousaf MSP, was at the start line this morning, joined by football mad duo Peter Martin and Alan Rough - aka Peter and Roughie - entertainment presenter Laura Boyd and radio DJ Robin Galloway.

Now in its 19th year, Pedal for Scotland attracts thousands of people who pedal from Glasgow Green to the Royal Highland Centre, Edinburgh. Over 5500 riders took part in the 45 mile Classic Challenge while 600 took on the 93 mile Big Belter.

Around 900 riders of all ages took part in the family friendly Wee Jaunt, joining the Classic Challenge riders for the final 10 miles from Linlithgow to the Royal Highland Centre.

Many participants were raising money for children and young people affected by poverty by supporting the event's official charity partner, The STV Children's Appeal.

Minister for Transport Humza Yousaf, said:

“I am absolutely delighted to be part of Pedal for Scotland today. Scotland’s biggest bike event is an incredible opportunity to showcase the activity, and it’s also a fantastic opportunity for sponsored fundraising.

“I would like to thank Cycling Scotland for making this event possible. I would also like to thank everyone today who is riding for their charity and also the STV Children’s Appeal.

“Earlier in the week, the First Minister announced a doubling of the active travel budget which clearly demonstrates our commitment to getting people more active. We want as many people as possible to make the switch to low carbon active travel, which improves our own health and the quality of air for others. I wish everyone taking part today the best of luck and hope it continues to inspire the nation to keep cycling.”

Keith Irving, chief executive of event organiser Cycling Scotland said:

“Congratulations to everyone who completed Pedal for Scotland, getting fit and raising money for a great cause.

“It was terrific to have the transport minister take part in the week it was announced that funding for active travel would be doubled. Alongside him, we had a large team from STV Children’s Appeal, MSPs, football legends, and people young and old cycling with us.

“We appreciate the patience of businesses and residents along the routes which have allowed people to ride across Scotland safely on closed roads.

“We are grateful for the backing of Transport Scotland to make the event happen and to all our sponsors, partners and agencies, especially Sustrans, Strathmore, the emergency services and local authorities along the route.

“We look forward to seeing more people cycling for their everyday journeys having enjoyed a great day out for a great cause.”

STV2's Laura Boyd said: "What an incredible day for Pedal for Scotland this year. I met so many amazing people of all ages along the way - thanks to everyone who kept me going up those hills and to those who baked for the cake stop - my favourite part! Aside from the

camaraderie, it was fantastic chance to raise funds for the STV Children's Appeal and great to see so many people raising money for numerous charities close to their hearts. Well done to you all. I'm off to recover but I'll be back next year!"

All Pedal for Scotland events are organised by Cycling Scotland with funding from Transport Scotland and with support from our sponsors and partners.

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Notes to editors:

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Pedal for Scotland

1. Pedal for Scotland is organised by Cycling Scotland, the lead organisation for cycling promotion in Scotland. Cycling Scotland is the national cycle training, promotion, events and engineering organisation for Scotland. With grant funding from Transport Scotland we are working to establish cycling as an acceptable, attractive and practical lifestyle option.

www.cycling.scot

Cycling Scotland is a recognised Scottish Charity no. SC 029760

2. Transport Scotland is the national transport agency for Scotland, delivering the Scottish Government's vision for transport.

www.transport.gov.scot

3. Pedal for Scotland was established in 1999 as a way to encourage more people to cycle. Cycling 50 miles in a day demonstrates the considerable distances it is possible to achieve by bike, and encourages people to leave the car at home for short journeys.

4. Pedal for Scotland event is delivered in partnership with eight local authorities and support services such as Police Scotland, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, Scottish Ambulance Service and the St Andrews Ambulance Association.

pedalforscotland.org

STV Children's Appeal

The STV Children's Appeal is committed to helping children and young people affected by poverty in Scotland. The STV Children's Appeal works closely with Scotland's leading experts in the field of child poverty, sharing knowledge and expertise with both small community groups and national charities on their experiences of addressing the challenges of child poverty in Scotland. www.stv.tv/appeal

In six years the Appeal has raised £13.7 million, allowing them to make 722 big and small awards across all 32 local authority areas in Scotland, providing much needed support to over 62,000 children.

STV Appeal is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, number SC042429.

Sustrans Scotland

Sustrans Scotland is sponsoring Pedal for Scotland 2017. Sustrans is the charity making it easier for people to walk and cycle. We connect people and places, create liveable neighbourhoods, transform the school run and deliver a happier, healthier commute.

www.sustrans.org.uk

Sustrans is a registered charity no. SCO39263 (Scotland) and 326550 (England and Wales)

Heart Scotland

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(Source: RAJAR / Ipsos-MORI / RSMB, period ending 3rd April 2016)

Daily Record

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Together with our commercial websites, including Road Record and ScotCareers, we command a digital audience of 3.4million unique users online a month (figure for May, 2012).

Media Scotland's newspapers and websites are read by two out of three Scots.

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