

Minutes

Apologies – Mark Wyer

1. Minutes of AGM held between 22nd Feb and 6th March 2021 via Google Forms
Approved
2. Matters arising
None
3. Chairman's Report

I start my report with thanking everyone for their support in making the League and the Association a success. Everyone is a volunteer and doesn't get paid for spending hours behind the scenes and on the day putting on events, running the league, commissaireing, marshalling and all the other jobs so rarely seen when riders turn up and race. Special thanks go out to the clubs and organisers for continuing to support the League.

The past season has seen a drop off in total participation compared to last season and we are still below pre-Covid levels. Cyclo-Cross is not alone in this although I think we have not suffered as much as other disciplines. What is striking is the level of participation in men over 50 has continued to increase, a matter referred to later on the agenda.

From an official's point of view we really are noticing a lack of available commissaires and would encourage anyone that is interested in becoming a commissaire to let us know. We are thinking of holding a "What's it take to be a commissaire" evening at some point in the coming months, where anyone interested can come and find out more before committing to go on a course. Watch the website and Facebook page for more info.

Highlight of the season in the region was the World Masters Cyclo-Cross Championships masterminded by Steve Grimwood and his team. After Covid impacted the 2021 version, our event in 2022 had over 600 entries from 22 nations. This has to be the most riders the competition has ever received and from the most nations. I'm sure you will all join me in thanking Steve and his team for giving up a lot of spare and work time to make the event such a success.

We now start planning for next season. The national events calendar has been published and an email will be going out to organisers following this meeting seeking preferred dates for next season. We already have four potential new promotions showing an interest plus we welcome Welwyn Wheelers back for an Eastern event. That interest alone shows that we're going to need more volunteer officials next season if we're not going to be relying on the same people every weekend giving up their spare time.

Finally, assuming I am not voted off at today's meeting, this coming year will be my last as Chair. I have been in the position now for over 10 years and I served as Secretary for many years prior to that. I now think it is time for someone without a bus pass and with fresh enthusiasm to take on the role.

Thanks to everyone for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you next season.

Ian Poole. Chair, Eastern Cyclo-Cross Association

4. Treasurers Report
This report is primarily focussed on the year ended 31st August 2022. We split the accounts between the league and the association so that we can get accurate costs of running the league as opposed to the association as a whole. In 2022 the league made a profit of

£2529.21 and the association made a profit of £3759.56. The league profits were largely due to a good number of registrations following the covid year. The association profit was largely due to the world masters which made a profit of ~£2,500 which wasn't the intention! For the year to date the league is deficit of £450 due to fewer registrations and increased costs in U12 medals and Commissaires expenses. The association year to date is in deficit of £2545 which is due to a loss with the world masters which is due to having less income from sponsorship. It was always the intention for the association to underwrite the world masters and over the two years it has actually broken even. The association continues to enjoy a healthy bank balance and I don't see any reason to increase levies or entry fees, however, some organisers have noted that events are making a loss so consideration will be discussed at the next committee meeting whether entry fees should go up for senior categories.

5. Coaching and Development Report

League numbers – The numbers competing in the youth and Under 12/Under 10 categories have declined again over this last season but the decline is now slower.

Muddy Monsters – The novice youth series continues to develop young riders around the region. The Cambridgeshire series was revitalised with rounds at Ely, Milton and Kings Lynn. Ian Doe and Abi Coles are working on setting up future editions in the Norwich area and possibly in the Essex area.

Youth Coaching – I tried a survey via the League's facebook page about youth coaching but had only a couple of replies. I didn't run any regional youth sessions this year as there does not seem to be any demand for the sessions.

Women and Girls Development – I ran a Women and Girls coaching session at Ashwell in October. This was downgraded from a full Coaching and Racing day due to low numbers booked on. This was possibly due to the date being in half term.

Coach Development – I tutored a Level 2 Cyclo-Cross Course at Welwyn in February. 6 more coaches from the region have now gained the award.

A big thanks to all the coaches and volunteers who have been working on developing young riders this season. Whilst numbers have declined since the pandemic I am confident that things will start to pick up soon.

Next Season – Unfortunately due to work pressures, I will have to stand down from the Coaching and Development Role.

Committee thanks Mark for his contribution over the past few years.

6. Election of Officers

Proposed Steve Grimwood, Seconded Lee Rowling. All in favour

Position	Current	Proposed
Chair	Ian Poole	Ian Poole
Vice Chair	Steve Grimwood	Steve Grimwood
Secretary	Paul Moss	Paul Moss
Treasurer	Paul Moss	Paul Moss
Events Co-ordinator	Ian Poole	Ian Poole
League Co-ordinator	Dave Copland	Dave Copland
Rider Representatives	Lee Rowling Jo Newstead	Lee Rowling Jo Newstead
Coaching & Rider Development Co-ordinator	Mark Wyer	Simon Wilson
Committee Members	Pete Whelan Daniel Doncaster James Madgwick Jo Denny	Pete Whelan Daniel Doncaster James Madgwick Jo Denny

7. Proposals

Proposal from David Hales, Mike Pears

Padding: I would like the association to purchase 10 padding type mats, to be used solely at events where there is an obvious need. At the Icení Velo event there were 2 mats available but there should have been another 5-6 in place for the safety of riders, and to prevent injury

Agreed that organisers will request funding for equipment from the Association, rather than the Association owning equipment. Organisers will store the equipment and manage and will be expected to share equipment between them where possible.

Proposal from Rob Smith and Andrew Roberts, seconded by Clive Tricker and Nigel Herrod

We had two proposals to separate the V60+'s into their own race so have amalgamated the two.

Proposal is to run the V60+ race 1 or 2 minutes behind the V50 or V40 race. Which race will be decided by the committee at the start of the season depending on numbers in each category.

V60+'s to have a separate points system rather than a category within the V50+ race

V60+ prizes to be equal to V50 prizes

Carried. All in favour. Committee to decide at the beginning of each season which race the V60's will be in, depending on upcoming numbers in the V40 or V50 categories.

Proposal from Karl Hale seconded by Peter Golding

To encourage more cyclists to have a go at racing, I would like to propose that a Novice race is held at each event. This need not be a stand-alone race but could be included in one of the less supported categories.

At least three other leagues have a Novice race as part of their events. Each one of these have combined it with their youth race (under 16 /under14).

No points are awarded as ability is not part of cyclocross discipline.

Restrictions are also put on the Novices, i.e. Have not raced CX before, only allowed to be a novice for one season / a limited number of races in that season. If it is apparent the Novice is of a reasonable standard they must then enter their respective category.

Withdrawn. Committee will take this forward and discuss encouraging Novice level riders.

For example, subsidised entry, rider ambassadors to help on sighting laps etc...

Proposal from Peter Golding seconded by Karl Hale

Review league prize list

The Race organiser pays the prize money from race entries, if I have my maths right that's £704 at each race, the cost of putting on events continues to rise, venue hire, First Aid, toilets etc, yet the greatest single outlay is prize money

Furthermore the prize money is not equal across all categories and in most cases it is the same group of winners at each race, yet for the majority of the league entrants winning 'coffee & cake' money remains a 'Pipe Dream'.

Reduce the prize list so that each senior category receives the same without increasing the overall pot i.e. 1st £20 2nd £15 3rd £10 4th £5

Carried that we change prize list to include 1st-4th across all senior categories. This will include V60+ men and V60+ women. Youth categories to remain unchanged. Total prize fund reduces to £612 so a saving of £92, although it's unlikely that all prizes will be awarded. All in favour.

Proposal from Peter Golding seconded by Karl Hale

I would like to propose that the league purchases 'Feather Flags' to be used at all events.

I entered races at several different leagues last season and noticed how effective the feather flags were at marking the entrance to venue's, either side of podiums, or as indicators for Start/Finish lines. I believe that if the Eastern Cyclocross league were also to purchase some

feather flags, this would enhance our events and present a welcoming feel to newcomers and visitors alike. Prices range from approximately £80 - £120 dependant on the size selected

Withdrawn as per 1st Proposal. Organisers welcome to approach association for funding. Committee will discuss at next meeting whether we could get some branded flags

Proposals from Jonathan Whall seconded by Simon Wilson

1) Is it time the team competition was revisited and clarified? For example, it is difficult to understand from the explanation on the website how it is worked out. Should it be raised to the best 4, 5 or even 6 team riders and properly reflect u14 as a category (in the same way that u8 counts) and better reflect the gender bias towards male results in younger categories (for example a winning female in u8-u12 appears to score by overall race placing not by gender result). I appreciate it is complicated and would take some work to overhaul but the competition calculation is hard to understand as it is.

Committee will discuss at next meeting

2) Can the league look afresh at the prizes/trophies in the various younger categories? Would it be possible to think about a trophy that is passed on and engraved each year. It would be great for children to be able to look back and see who has previously won the trophy. I appreciate this has logistical issues about engraving and collecting in trophies but it could be considered. If funds allowed there could be a small trophy to keep and one to hand back. (Also, I've seen wooden medals at other leagues (Wales) which may be more sustainable and worth a look.)

Committee will discuss at next meeting

3) Team Comp at the last race of the season. Juggle the timetable slightly to include an end of season mixed relay perhaps at end of morning session (4 laps = to include as a minimum 1xsenior/junior male, 1x vet 40/50/60 male, 1x woman (any cat) and 1x youth (u14 or u16 male or female)). Or a similar combination or altered concept as the committee see fit. Club teams would be preferred but mixed club teams also encouraged - perhaps a max number of teams. It looked like it worked well at the World Championships.

Committee will discuss at next meeting. Quite keen to promote an event like this at the end of the season or maybe pre season. Difficulty is often finding an organiser where numbers are likely to be fewer and suitable space for presentations is required.

8. AOB

Possibility of using Alton Water as a permanent race/training facility. Steve Grimwood would like to propose that the Association underwrites.

Use of CX Hubz Android/IOS App

Agreed that Paul M will take forward and use for next season.