Eastern Cyclo-cross Association

Annual General Meeting

22nd January 2017

Minutes

33 representatives were present

**Apologies**

Pete Whelan, Neil Pears, Chris Clague, David Hales

**Minutes of AGM held 24 Jan 2016**

The minutes were taken as read and signed as a true record

Proposed by Steve Grimwood

Seconded Lee Rowling

**Matters Arising**

None

**Chair’s Report**

Ian Poole thanked the Committee for their continued support and contribution to debate and discussions during the year. He noted that at last year’s AGM Keely Bunton stood down as Secretary to focus on her work at Hadleigh Park and that it had not been possible to fill the vacancy which had meant that he had picked up the responsibilities. has meant that I’ve picked up most of her duties. The Committee had co-opted Steve Grimwood and Pete Whelan onto the Committee early on as the structure does not allow for ordinary members, those without a specific role. The Committee were proposing a change in the structure at the AGM to more accurately reflect the duties and requirements to run the Association.

The region continued the tradition of hosting a National Trophy Cross with the event in November at Trinity Park in Ipswich. Ian thanked Steve Grimwood and everyone at Ipswich BC for organising an excellent weekend of not just racing but entertainment and trade stands. The Association supported bringing in Thijs Al, the experienced Dutch elite cross rider for a session of riding tips and advice on the Saturday afternoon that was well received by riders.

A Regional Commissaires course was held before the start of the season but with 17 Commissaires in the region and the increasing number of riders, without a larger pool to call upon he noted that we are putting a lot of pressure on a few commissaires. An Organisers and Commissaires seminar had been organised at Bury St Edmunds in August which would be repeated in 2017.

On a more serious note, a complaint had been received from an organiser about a rider changing in the car park at his event despite changing rooms being available. The incident had been witnessed by a senior person from the venue that could easily have resulted in the loss of the event in future years. This conduct is totally unacceptable in our sport and the Chair asked that this message was taken back to riders and clubs.

The region had been asked for feedback on the Regional Championships format by BC. The Cyclo-Cross Commission had discussed the option of changing to the road/circuit model, which defaults to one championship per region, but with the possibility of two or more regions staging a joint championship if this was considered more appropriate.

Finally it was reported that the final round of the 2017/18 National Trophy would be held at Ipswich on 7 January, a week before the national championships. Given the input and support that we get from people across the region, the Association had decided to promote the event, in the same way that the Yorkshire Association promotes the national championships. Steve Grimwood would, once again, be promoting it and will welcome volunteers to help out.

**Treasurers Report**

Unfortunately, Neal Pears was unable to attend but has provided accounts for year ended August 2016. Our accounts run from September through to August.

The accounts have been split between the League and the Association. The League made profit of £151.30 and the Association made a profit of £3064.

There were no questions.

**League Co-Ordinator**

Ian Poole reported on another successful season despite one less league event than the previous year. New promoters had organised at five rounds and there were new Cross venues at Bury St Edmunds and Hadleigh. He gave thanks on behalf of the League to all the clubs and promoters but especially to Bob Parry for stepping in at the last minute to take over the management of the St Ives event at Grafham.

Not including the Iceni event held earlier in the day, the average participation levels continued to rise. In 2015/16 the average number of participants per round was 257. This season it increased to 273 with the highest number at Grafham and the lowest at the category A event at Hadleigh.

The Committee recognised that there was pressure to accommodate more riders but that some venues simply don’t have the infrastructure to cope with many more, parking, changing etc. The Category A XRT Elmy Cross at Trinity Park on 2 January did try increasing the number of riders to 100 to test the lap scoring equipment. The Committee will now invite promoters to bid for Category A events in 2017/18 where promoters can demonstrate that Category A standards can be met, sufficient facilities are available and that more riders could be accommodated at the venue.

It will be the Eastern region’s turn to promote the regional championships next season (subject to the outcome of BCs discussions) and we would be looking for a promoter for the event on 3rd December. Potential new events were also in the wings that could come forward in 2017/18. The calendar must be completed by the end of April and Ian requested that anyone wanting to promote that isn’t currently on the calendar to contact him asap. Emails to current organisers would be going out in the following weeks.

Finally, Ian thanked everyone for promoting in the 2016/17 season, including the huge back up teams. He also thanked all the commissaires and the judging team but, most of all, asked that those present showed their appreciation to the work of Dave Copland in running the league in the background. It involves a huge commitment that means the league runs smoothly and produces race results almost as soon as riders cross the line. He noted that not many leagues were so efficient, even with transponder systems that have resulted in additional costs for riders.

**Committee Structure**

Proposal from the committee to change the structure of the committee to accurately reflect the current roles and requirement. This was accepted by majority vote. Proposed by Lee Rowling, Seconded by Jo Newstead

**Election of Committee**

Chairman Ian Poole

Vice Chairman Steve Grimwood

Secretary Paul Moss (prop Jane De Boltz, sec Steve De Boltz)

Treasurer Neil Pears

Event Co-Ordinator Ian Poole

League Co-Ordinator Dave Copland

Commissaire Co-Ordinator Ian Doe (BC REO non voting)

All positions voted en-bloc. Prop Steve Grimwood, Sec Jo Newstead

Rider Reps. Jane De Boltz, Lee Rowling. Prop Jo Newstead, Sec Rachel Clarke

Coaching & Rider Development Co-Ordinator – There were no proposals so this position will remain unfilled, however, Lee Rowling expressed interest but would like to see if anyone else comes forward

Committee Members - Pete Whelan. There were no other proposals so there remains two vacant positions for committee members.

**Proposals**

**9.1 - overflow entries and reserves**

Proposed by Jane De Boltz

Seconded by Steve Grimwood

This proposal is included to formalise the procedure brought in during the season to mitigate the problems of full race entries which were happening in the Vet50+ and Women race. There was only one race where it was actually applied.

An additional proposal to use a reserve list was being considered but at present the BC entry system is not fully able to accommodate and would therefore put additional workload on organisers to administer. The committee will continue to discuss but it will not be introduced for the following season.

Proposal carried by majority vote

**9.2 - senior races and prize fund**

Proposed Jane De Boltz, Seconded Bob Parry

Proposal carried by majority vote

Prize fund will now be as follows:

Senior Men & Junior Men

1st Senior (over 18) - £25 1st Junior - £25

2nd Senior - £20 2nd Junior - £20

3rd Senior - £15 3rd Junior - £15

4th Senior - £12

5th Senior - £9

6th Senior - £5

Senior Women, Junior Women & Veteran Women

1st Senior (over 18) - £25 1st Junior - £25 1st Veteran - £25

2nd Senior - £20 2nd Junior - £20 2nd Veteran - £20

3rd Senior - £15 3rd Junior - £15 3rd Veteran - £15

**9.3 – Female race entries to open one day before male**

Proposed Sherilyn Powell

Seconded Mark Wyer

1 in favour

Majority against

Proposal Not carried by majority vote

**9.4 – Prize money**

This proposal was accommodated in 9.2

**9.5 – Points Allocation**

Proposed by Mark Wyer with amendment to split all categories

Seconded by Steve De Boltz

Amendment suggestion. Split all categories so they are all allocated points per category i.e. a league for every category. Dave Copland ran a test based on this proposal and essentially there would be little to no change to existing league prize winners. Technically makes no difference to Dave.

The amendment not carried by majority vote. It was felt that not enough riders in the categories would make a competitive league in all cases.

Main proposal rejected by majority vote

**9.6 – Splitting age U14/U16 race so that U14’s start 1 minute behind U16’s**

Proposed Tracey Griggs

Not seconded so proposal not carried

**9.7 – Priority entrance to riders belonging to clubs organising races**

Proposed David Hales

Not seconded so proposal not carried

This proposal is not currently possible with the BC entry system and would put considerable onus on the organisers to manually administer the race entries.

**9.8 – Revision to race times to allow separate women’s race**

Proposed David Hales

Not seconded so proposal not carried

This proposal does not allow enough/any warm up time between races and means an earlier start for organisers

**Open Forum**

Mark put forward idea of youth committee at last AGM but didn’t get any volunteers so it didn’t go ahead. There has been some Facebook discussion about rider development and Mark pointed out that Eastern Region rider standards have risen hugely with Eastern Region riders genuinely competing in the National races. Mark’s development work is going on and he continues to work with various coaches including Mark Walker at Writtle College. Some of the CX courses this season have not featured forced dismount which doesn’t help development of riders although it was acknowledged that weather and course restriction in the East does play a part. Ian Poole suggested Mark comes along to Organisers meeting in the summer to talk to organisers about course setup and trying to build slightly more challenging courses.

Ian Doe (British Cycling Eastern Region) continues to talk to new clubs for organisers. Possibility of Summer CX series. Any commissaires/organisers etc can contact Ian

Meeting Closed - 17:48