

## Eastern Cyclo Cross Association

### Annual General Meeting

Held via Google Forms between Monday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022 and Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Mar 2022

There were 45 responses to the Google Form in total.

## MINUTES

### 1. **Minutes of AGM held 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021 via Google Forms**

Signed as a true record. Proposed David Spauls, Seconded Jo Newstead

### 2. **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising

### 3. **Chairman's Report**

Well, Cross has come back with a bang! After the lost season of 2020/21 there have been so many highlights this season that it's difficult to know where to start.

We came back with 11 League rounds that incorporated the Regional Championships and a new venue at Southill Park in Bedfordshire, just one less than the last season before COVID struck. We did lose events at Basildon, Writtle and Grafham but still managed a regular programme of fixtures gapped only by the loss of the Milton Country Park event due to COVID restrictions. And the good news is that we're already starting to put together the calendar for 2022/23. Some of you may have noticed that the 11th December has been reserved for a GB World Cup. We understand that this is going to be in the London area and so we'll have a blank weekend in the League so that you can go and see it.

And talking of events, the Association played a key role in the promotion of the World Masters CX Championships at Trinity Park in December. We have to recognise the huge amount of work put in by Steve Grimwood and the many volunteers that helped make it such a success. Our huge thanks to everyone that helped out, especially given the introduction of new COVID restrictions the week before meant we were potentially look at holding the British Masters Championships instead! We look forward to welcoming back the championships on 2nd to 4th December and don't forget that you're a Master when you're 35, so maybe think about riding this year?

From an official's point of view, once again it's good to see so many marshals, lap recorders and commissaires turning out to help. We continue to recruit more officials and British Cycling recently launched a new Regional Cyclo-Cross Commissaires course. The next courses will probably be run in September, but if you're interested, please contact the Regional Development Officer, Ian Doe, who will have details and can point you in the right direction. I am also looking at attending an early season event to allow anyone that might have an interest in becoming a Commissaire to spend a day looking at what's involved before you commit to the course. Watch out for more details once the calendar is published and my commissaire commitments for the season are known.

Mark Wyer has provided a coaching update below, but it's good to see so many riders from the region high-up in the national rankings. Let's keep it up, even though riding the National Trophies will involve a considerable amount of travelling next season. Performance of the season has to be that of Joseph Smith who, despite horrendous conditions, rode away with the British Junior Men's National Championship. It's just a shame that he wasn't chosen to ride the World Championships.

Finally, we have an opportunity to influence how British Cycling invest time and resources in cyclo-cross in the region as part of the preparation of the Regional Development Plan. We've prepared a short online survey <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/EasternCX/> to provide you

with an opportunity to contribute your thoughts and ideas about various aspects of the sport. Please try and find time to contribute. The survey will remain open until 14 March.

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**

See below images for a breakdown of the accounts as at 20 Feb 2022.

Technically the financial year finishes on the 31st August and I would normally report on the position prior to the start of the current season, however, this year I've reported on the position as it is now as there was very little movement in 2020/21 for obvious reasons. The league and association are accounted for separately to make sure that running the league is at least breaking even. In 2020/21 both the association and the league made a small loss due to having no league registrations but still paying for a set of numbers and the BC affiliation and internet costs. We also funded a rider to go to the junior European championships which is something the association is very happy to support. The current situation is extremely good with the league making a profit of ~£2,500 and the association a profit of ~£3,500 and we have an extremely healthy bank balance. We agreed back in 2019 to underwrite the World Masters Championships and although there is a small amount still to pay for we have not had to fund anything to the World Masters and in fact it has made a small profit. I would recommend that league registrations remain at their current level and the committee to discuss how to support organisers and members for the coming season. If there are any questions, please post them in the questions box at the bottom of this form.

## Eastern Cyclocross League

Year Ended 31st August 2022

Income	2021/22	2020/21	Expenses	2021/22	2020/21
League Registrations	6541.00	0.00	Numbers	286.06	887.40
U12 Medals	252.00	0.00	U12 Medals	332.20	0.00
			Judging Team Expenses	2407.68	0.00
			Commissaire Expenses	952.40	88.80
			U12 Trophies	0.00	0.00
			League Event Registrations	120.00	0.00
			Consumables	3.00	0.00
			BC Affiliation	74.00	74.00
			Internet Costs	88.45	37.18
	6793.00	0.00		4263.79	1087.38
	2021/22	2020/21			
Income	6793.00	0.00			
Expenditure	4263.79	1087.38			
Surplus	2529.21	-1087.38			

## Eastern Cyclocross Association

Year Ended 31st August 2022

Income	2021/22	2020/21	Expenses	2021/22	2020/21
BC Levies	8534.00	456.00	Equipment	200.84	0.00
Area Levies	2596.00	0.00	BC Levies	8534.00	456.00
Worlds Masters	43905.08		Committee Expenses	0.00	0.00
			Honoraria/Donations	0.00	115.00
			Medals/Engaving/Prizes	120.00	0.00
			Youth Funding	0.00	0.00
			Young Rider Funding	0.00	300.00
			Worlds Masters	42540.68	
			Regional Championships	120.00	
	55035.08	456.00		51515.52	871.00
	2021/22	2020/21			
Income	55035.08	456.00			
Expenditure	51515.52	871.00			
Surplus	3519.56	-415.00			

## Balance Sheet 2021/22

	2021/22	2020/21
Balance at 31st Aug 2021	33407.95	
Income	61828.08	456.00
Expenditure	55779.31	1958.38
Surplus	6048.77	-1502.38
Savings Account	30000.00	
Current A/C Balance at 1st Sept 2022	9456.72	
Reconciled Bank Balance	10821.72	

### 5. Election of Officers

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 1 male 1 female	Lee Rowling Jo Newstead	Lee Rowling Jo Newstead
Coaching & Rider Development Co-ordinator	Mark Wyer	Mark Wyer
Committee Members	Pete Whelan Daniel Doncaster Jo Denny Vacant Vacant	Pete Whelan Daniel Doncaster Jo Denny Vacant Vacant

Elected en-bloc. Proposed Kevin Barker, Seconded Peter Golding

## 6. Coaching and Development Officer Report

I am assisted in this work by the Coaching and Development Workgroup that meets online 3 or 4 times a year. My thanks to them for their time. We are indebted to the Beastway/Tour of the Cornfields team for their financial support of the Contenders and Women and Girls coaching sessions.

Youth Development will remain a big priority over the coming year. The pandemic has hit the numbers in the Youth and Under 12 categories the hardest. In the 2019 – 20 season we had an average of 55 youth riders per event and in 2021-22 it was down to 36.5. There was a similar picture for the Under 12's where in 2019-20 it was 60 and down to 41 in the season just gone.

We ran the following projects during the season which we hope will contribute to halting the decline in youth numbers and increase the number of women competing.

Muddy Monsters Series (Under 16's entry level racing)

We resurrected the Herts and Beds Muddy Monsters Series with 7 rounds being run. Over 150 different riders aged Under 14, most of whom are not league regulars, took part in the series.

We are intending to try and get at least one more series up and running for next season.

Women and Girls Development

We ran 1 coaching session and 1 Coaching and Racing day for women and girls. Both of these were very successful with good numbers including novice riders. We intend to run another Coaching and Racing day on the 18th September 2022.

Contenders Youth Coaching

We ran 3 contenders youth coach sessions over the season. These were at Welwyn, Ipswich and Writtle. Unfortunately numbers were low and we will have to consider what to replace these sessions with.

Coach Development

Welwyn Wheelers hosted a Level 2 Cyclo-Cross Coaching Course at Stanborough in February 2022 and 7 new coaches based in the region have passed the qualification. A couple of those have signed themselves up for the new online Planning and Prescription Level 3 award. Mark Wyer is also working on a practical version of the Level 3 award on behalf of British Cycling Coach Education.

Mark Wyer

Coaching and Development Rep

## 7. Proposal to move the women's race to 11:15 and the Vet50 race to 13:45

I propose that the Women's race time is swapped with the Vet50+ race; ie, it starts at 11:15, and the Vet50+ race starts at 13:45. The idea is that this could encourage more Mums to take part since their race would be soon after the youngsters' races. Additionally, the course would be less cut up and likely to be in better shape for less experienced riders.

Proposed by John Swindells, Seconded by Alison Hogg

37 responses.

29 against (3 female)

8 for (2 female)

This proposal will be discussed further at the next committee meeting as the race schedule doesn't require an AGM remit, but the committee will take into account the responses from the various categories to decide whether it is beneficial to move the races.

## **8. Proposal to introduce a rider penalty**

Any participant found to be using foul or abusive language, or, acting in an unsporting manner in any circumstance or context whilst at a league event and where reported too and confirmed by the chief commissaire on the day shall face an automatic fixed penalty league sanction. This shall be communicated to the participant in writing prior to the next event by a League representative.

Penalty - 22/23 Season

1) Removal of any League points gained from the event where the incident took place.

2) Relegation to the back of the starting grid at the next event.

Note -

This specific league rule is a "Fixed Penalty" tool to deal quickly and firmly with unacceptable behaviour at an Eastern League event. The penalty is not dependent on any individual still being present on the day after any such event, nor shall it be subject to appeal, justification or comparisons to other cases. The decision shall be actioned immediately on submission of the Commissaires report to the League Committee and the penalty shall be absolute and final.

Important note -

This rule is very specifically an Intermediate League sanction able to be actioned immediately and independently upon a decision confirmed by the association. It shall have no bearing or influence on any further actions that may be taken on the day by the Commissaire with respect to the rules of racing and general conduct of the Association and National Governing Body.

Further actions may also include disqualification from the event or any other actions in line with National rules and regulations.

Proposed by Committee

44 responses

42 for

2 against

Proposal accepted

## **9. Proposal for committee to consider paying for a part-time development officer**

I propose that the Committee investigates the feasibility of employing a part-time Development Officer to work on increasing the number of events, increasing the diversity of competitors and developing the youth numbers competing. The EC-CA has sufficient funds to employ someone part time for a 3 year project. More detail for the proposal is in the document here -

><https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QAfOX8uXCsXxITCJIIGeFgoCoKMDWM7I/edit?usp=sharing&oid=107375570790633794824&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Proposed by Mark Wyer. Seconded by Committee

44 responses

39 for

5 against

Proposal accepted and will be discussed at the next committee meeting

#### 10. Any Other Business

We had four further comments:

*How are the novice / youth training / coaching events advertised? We lucked upon one for my son with Mark, but unless you know about them you don't know.*

Reply sent by League Secretary

I think most sessions are posted on our Facebook page and also as a British Cycling event but both have their flaws, Facebook is easily missed and BC is a bit eclectic in its searching mechanism! There's no doubt that we suffer from a lack of volunteers in the club setups, my own club included.

Have a look at Ian's survey that is posted in his report as that does have a question about coaching sessions. I think we will probably try and pull something together to put on our own website but the issue here is keeping it all up to date and relevant.

There's no easy answer here but with the regional development plan from British Cycling for the Eastern Region we may well be able to pull something a little more co-ordinated together. In general BC are wanting to promote multi discipline coaching rather than pockets of discipline specific sessions

*keep up the good work.*

Thank you, we will 😊

*run the v40 race at min 40m + and avoid races that are 39m or less.*

Commissaires always try their best to run races to 40 minutes but where schedules are tight this is not always possible. The number of laps is set early in the race and sometimes leading riders can push the pace that bit further and mean that a race that would have finished on the 40m mark is now one or two minutes under. We can't just add another lap partway through the race. Of the 11 races 6 were under 40 minutes for the winner, those being WSW (37:41), Neil Pears (38:29), Diss (35:10), Regionals (39:27) and Iceni (38:59). The schedule is quite tight between the 40+ race and the women race and then the open race which must finish in daylight. If the winner crosses the line at 37 minutes an extra lap would mean around 43-45 minutes depending on lap length which would mean a lapped rider could be over 50 minutes. Not an easy one but the commissaires do take all these circumstances into consideration. I guess if you want a longer race, enter the open race!

*With the amount being spent on numbers would be league consider investing in chips?*

Reply sent by League Secretary.

Unfortunately, you still need numbers for chip timing. Even the very best of chip timing systems require a backup which requires the use of pin on numbers. Numbers are also required to easily identify riders on course and whether they should be there or not!

We've considered chip timing a number of times and there are some advantages but most feedback that we've had is that the judging system that we use is far better, quicker and more reliable. In terms of costs a chip timing company would charge ~£2.20 per rider plus £150 setup. Each race would therefore cost around £900 so a season of 10 races would be £9000. We currently spend around £3,500 on the judges expenses so chip timing would be considerably more expensive. If we invested in chip timing equipment ourselves it would mean far less reliance on volunteer judges and far more reliance on one or two people to set up the chip timing system at every race. At the moment we have lots of wonderful volunteers from all over the region that can run the judging system and we have two sets of equipment for the east and west of the region. With chip timing this wouldn't be possible so

we would have to rely on a chip timing company. I'm sure chip timing will eventually take over but at the moment it's too expensive and places too much reliance on too few people