Eastern Cyclo-Cross Association

Annual General Meeting

24 January 2016

Minutes

27 representatives in attendance

1. **Apologies:** Neil Pears (Treasurer)

2. **Minutes of 2015 AGM & Matters Arising:** The minutes were taken as read and there were no matters arising

3. **Chairman’s Report:** Ian Poole thanks the support of the Committee and their constructive discussion and feedback at the meetings held during the course of the year. The return of a national event to the region, the National Trophy at Ipswich, was much welcomed and its combination with coaching by Elite riders was a success. A 2016 National Trophy round at Ipswich had been agreed by BC and would be on the UCI calendar. Generally, across the League, there was a continuing high standard of organisation and adaptation to accommodate the ever-increasing number of riders. However, the increase in the number of riders and events does mean a need for more Commissaires. A course for new cyclo-cross Commissaires was to be organised later in the year. Finally, the Chairman reported that Keely Bunton would be stepping down as Secretary at this AGM. He thanks her for all her hard work and support behind the scenes over the years that she had been in post and wished her well in her role at Hadleigh Park.

4. **Treasurers Report:** Unfortunately the Treasurer, Neil Pears, was unable to be present at the meeting. Balance sheets had been produced that indicated an overall surplus of £5,000 for the 2014/15 season – to 1 September 2015. This had occurred because of the significant increase in membership numbers and the decision to increase the membership fee to enable the League to consider investments to enable the increased rider numbers to be accommodated. Several Leagues across the country were using transponders albeit that there were many different products being used with various success. It was noted that MyLaps was one product that was being used in other disciplines in the region.

5. **League Co-ordinator’s Report:** Ian Poole reported that once again there had been a packed programme of league events across the region, although there remained some black holes, especially in the north of the region. There had been new venues and new organisers and all had generally been successful promotions. Ian thanks the organisers and their clubs for the continued support. In terms of participation, there had been an overall 8% increase in rides compared with the previous season with an average of 250 participants per event. Although participation in the Under 12’s categories had decreased, all other categories had experienced an increase. Ian thanked Dave Copland for his substantial input and many hours behind the scenes to make the League the success that it is.

6. **Election of Officers:**

Chairman – Ian Poole

Secretary – Vacant

Treasurer – Neil Pears

League Co-ordinator – Ian Poole

Webmaster – Dave Copland

Commissaire Co-ordinator – Ian Doe (British Cycling REO)

Coaching Co-ordinator – Ross Tricker

Rider Representatives – Lee Rowling, Jane De Boltz, Paul Moss

Regional Board Representative – Ian Poole

**The above positions were voted on block and were agreed.**

Youth Development Officer – This position was not filled and therefore remained as a vacancy on the Committee

7. **Proposals:**

Youth Development Sub-Committee: Proposed by Mark Wyer that a sub-committee be formed to co-ordinate all the various cyclo-cross coaching initiatives across the region. A group of volunteers had come forward including Ross Tricker and Mark Fraser. Ross could provide a linkage between the main committee and sub-committee. Ian Poole stated that the committee had considered the proposal and would want to see a long term sustainable structure to coaching co-ordination that encourages succession beyond current members of the sub-committee, rather than initiatives falling away as volunteers move on. He thought that the League could allocate some funds towards initiative once a plan for initiatives had been prepared and submitted to the Committee for endorsement.

All voted in favour of the proposal.

Junior Men’s League Table: Proposal by Dougal Toms that the Junior Men’s League Table is combined with the Senior Men’s table, as is the Youth under 14 and Under 16. This would allow the juniors to get both junior and senior placings at the end of the season. There would remain two trophies, one for seniors and one for juniors. After some discussion it was agreed that, if junior and senior men were in a single league, then the junior league positions would be unduly affected by which seniors happened to turn up at any given race. It was therefore proposed that juniors could elect to ride in the Senior men’s league rather than the junior league when they join the league.

All voted in favour of the amended proposal.

Number of League events: Proposal by Alan French that the league to be reduced to 14 events. This is due to the lack of volunteers for Commissaire duties with all available Commissaires having done a lot of events in the season. It was agreed that the situation would be monitored and the committee would look at several options.

Lap lengths: Proposal by Alan French that a lap length of 6-7 minutes for the leader should be the norm for league events. It was agreed that some courses result in long lap times. Organisers would be reminded, as part of their League information pack, that lap times are important in making the event timetable run smoothly.

Race day timetable: Proposal by Alan French that the schedule should be adjusted to allow more time between races to allow sufficient time for warm up and rest time for Commissaires and Marshals. It was agreed that this would be considered but that it’s very difficult in December and January to find sufficient daylight to get all the races in.

Balanced calendar: Proposal by Alan French that the racing calendar should be more balanced to provide more racing after Christmas. It would be better than weekends with two events. Ian Poole responded that while organisers are given the opportunity to promote into February, the suitability of courses can vary at differing parts of the winter and venue availability can also be limited. It was agreed that the option of extending the season would continue but that the League is reliant on promoting clubs to agree to promote and that the League is not in the position of dictating the dates that events will be held, other than leaving the national championship weekend in January free.

MTB Bar Widths: Proposal from Jason Bye that MTB bar widths should be a maximum size in Cross events. There was considerable discussion about this proposal but it was agreed that the League could not impose such a rule and that it would require a change of the cyclo-cross regulations by British Cycling’s Technical Commission. Ian Poole agreed to discuss with BC cyclo-cross co-ordinator.

8. **Open Forum:**

* It was noted that the Tour of the Cornfields would be the first weekend of September and profits would go to the Youth Development initiative. It was agreed that there would be no league event that day.
* It was asked that organisers provide sufficient toilets at their events and that the League ensure this.
* Concern was raised at Under 10’s parents / supervisors were causing safety issues by going around the course with their rider. It was agreed that Commissaires would remind people to act responsibly during Under 10’s races.