Eastern Cyclo Cross Association

Annual General Meeting

Monday 30th March 2020

Minutes

1. Apologies

None

1. Minutes of AGM held 27th January 2019

Signed as a true copy

1. Matters arising

Has the Code of Conduct been produced?

Yes. It is included in the current brochure located here -> http://www.easterncross.org.uk/brochure2019.docx

1. Chairman’s Report

Firstly, reflecting on the past year, I’d like to thank everyone on the Committee for their continued support and contribution to debate and discussions during the year. We always have some good and considered debate on how the League operates and how the Association responds to the increasing numbers of riders at events. The new timetable appears to have worked well, albeit that our volunteer commissaires, marshals and judging teams now have some long and busy days.

Once again, we achieved an increase in participants at events compared with like-for-like event the previous year. However, we did have the fewest League events since the 2011/12 season, resulting in long gaps during mid-season.

The season ended in an anti-climax thanks to Storm Ciara which meant we had to cancel the MG Writtle event and the prize presentation. It’s a long time since the weather has caused the total cancellation of an event. The joint Eastern / Central Regional Championships were ably promoted by Welwyn Wheelers and our thanks must go to Susi Sharples and her team at Welwyn for making such an excellent championship.

The big announcement of the season was securing the UCI World Masters Championships at Trinity Park for 2021 and 2022. Steve Grimwood has taken the lead on successfully bidding for this prestigious event. The Association is supporting it and we’ll be looking for volunteers to assist with a wide range of tasks, more details of which will be announced over the coming season.

Talking of next season, work has started on the planning of events but the current difficult circumstances we all find ourselves in could well have a knock-on for our programme. I’ve had ten promotions confirm so far and am hoping that others will let me know their intentions in the coming few weeks. There are also new promoters looking at the potential of an event at new venues and we’re still looking to find willing promoters in Norfolk. No doubt there will be a lot of rescheduling of road, track and MTB events into the Autumn which could have a knock on in terms of availability of riders, organisers, commissaires and other volunteers to make the events happen. We can only take things one step at a time and await guidance from British Cycling about when we can schedule events as and when it’s right to make such decisions.

Finally. to everyone associated in anyway with cyclo-cross in the Region, I wish you well over the coming weeks. Stay fit and well and I look forward to seeing you at a Cross event in 2020/21.

Ian Poole

Chair, Eastern Cyclo-Cross Association

1. Treasurers Report



As always the accounts are split between running the Association and running the League even though they both use the same bank account. This year we also produced separate accounts for running the National Trophy event as this was partially funded by the association. Technically the National Trophy made a loss of £3,064 which the association had agreed to act as a sponsor for and personally I think this is a good use of association funds.

The league made a surplus of £895. The association made a surplus of £108.82 despite funding the trophy. So overall we made a surplus of £1004.73 so the Eastern Cyclocross Association is in a good financial position.

The current year is running at similar levels with the association at a surplus of nearly £3000 but this will be eaten up by the purchase of another set of judging equipment to be kept in the west of the region.

1. League Co-ordinator Report
2. Election of Officers

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **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 Representatives1 male1 female | Lee RowlingJo Newstead | Lee RowlingJo Newstead |
| Coaching & Rider Development Co-ordinator | Mark Wyer | Mark Wyer |
| Committee Members | Pete WhelanDaniel DoncasterBrian AllertonJo Denny | Pete WhelanDaniel DoncasterBrian AllertonJo Denny |

Mark Wyer is happy to continue in the coaching co-ordinator role as per current arrangements.

Proposed en-bloc – Clive Tricker

Seconded – Mark Wyer

1. League Constitution



This is required to formalise the league and bring the constitution up to date with the current British Cycling recommendations. It is also to ratify the request from committee to set up a saving account and is required by the bank in order to setup said savings account.

Proposed – Brian Allerton

Seconded – Steve Grimwood

1. Proposals

Alan French

I have been thinking about how we can save a bit of time on race days with the enlarged schedule.

 My idea is pre-gridding. After the race closure date on the (Tuesday I think) before the race, the organiser allocates a row number to each rider based on their league position etc. This number is then marked on the arm number of each rider.

The riders then line themselves up before each race a quick walk down the start grid to check everyone is where they should be and off. No long-winded call up.

Should save 20-40 mins on the day.

 Obviously a couple of caveats

The number of rows on the grid needs to be known.

The grid itself should have "open sides" and not be on the course proper (unless the previous race has finished, but this could be controlled by the Comms).

Non league or riders entering on the day take their chances at the back.

Obviously a bit more work for the organisers.

If a no-show leaves a hole then the rider behind can shuffle up one on the Comms say so or the hole is left.

 Just an idea but if it gives the volunteers a bit more of a break and gives us a bit more wiggle room then happy days.

Committee does not feel this would be beneficial and may cause more work than it actually saves. The break that commissaires get when the grid gets called is a welcome one rather than having to police riders into their correct slots. We don’t feel there should be too much emphasis on gridding at regional level and the majority of Under 10’s enter on the day so would still need manual gridding anyway. This can be discussed with commissaires and/or committee meetings if members feel it should be progressed.

There were a variety of comments on this proposal which are copy and pasted below:

There are too many no-shows for this to work. Central's system is easier. After the close date, allocate the rider numbers in grid order. On the line entries are at the back on a first-come-first-served basis. Riders can then pre-grid in order and simply ride through the grid gate in order.

Not a rule,

Love the present method the pre race banter adds to the suspense of where you might be gridded

Interesting suggestion, but would almost certainly cause huge confusion. The gridding time can easily be saved as long as the start line is off the main course (provided there are sufficient commissaires of course), so maybe course organisers could be reminded of this.

I am Against the proposal, it will not save any time.

Against.

Good idea but too complex to administer and the time saving is relatively small given all the extra admin etc involved

There are a lot of good ideas in Alan French's Proposal and would agree the committee should look at ways to make the gridding more efficient. It works well enough but is a very time consuming process, particularly in the Vets races as this is where the big numbers are and generally we all stay roughly in the same place at each race. Perhaps 50% rule, that is the top 50% riders get a gridding call up, the rest (of us) get called in sets of 8.. i.e. comms just count 8 at a time similar to what we have happen at the Mountain Bike races and so on? Just a thought?

The committee’s feeling is that we would like to keep races and gridding as close to a National event as possible but this will be discussed at next committee and agreed with commissaires who ultimately will have the final say.

1. Open Forum

There were a few other comments on the AGM response form of which I’ve pasted the relevant ones below:

With the COVID-19 restrictions likely to continue until October or beyond, perhaps those clubs scheduling a September/October event should look at February/March alternative dates and venues.

Huge thanks to the committee & friends for all their hard work! I couldn't access the League Constitution though - no actual link in the agenda.

Thank you to the Committee, Club organisers of each race and all the volunteers involved in helping to make this great sport available at grass roots level.