

Eastern Cyclo Cross Association

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 13th March 2025 7:30pm at Colchester Sports Park CO4 5YX

AGENDA

1. Minutes of AGM held on 21st March 2024
2. Matters arising
3. Chairman's Report
4. Treasurers Report
5. Coaching and Development Report
6. Election of Officers

Committee would like to express its sincere thanks and gratitude to Pete Whelan who is stepping down as a member of the committee. Pete has been a prominent member, organiser, commissaire and probably lots of other things I don't even know about! Thank you Pete for your years of volunteering with the Eastern Cross Association.

Position	Current	Proposed
Honorary Vice President	Ian Poole	N/A
Chair	Vacant	Vacant
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	Simon Wilson	Simon Wilson
Committee Members	Pete Whelan Daniel Doncaster Richard Miller Jo Denny	Vacant Daniel Doncaster Richard Miller Jo Denny

7. Proposals

Proposal from Simon Howlett seconded by Ben Howlett

Remove Prize Money for All Categories

I propose eliminating prize money across all categories for the following reasons:

Financial Sustainability – Event organizers bear the cost of prize money, and many are struggling to break even. Removing this expense would help ensure the long-term viability of events.

Imbalance in Revenue vs. Payouts – In 6 out of the 16 prize-awarding categories, entry fees collected are consistently lower than the prize money distributed, creating a financial shortfall.

Limited Benefit to the Majority – Prize money is often won by the same riders each week, with some earning more in a season than they pay in entry fees. This means the majority of participants are effectively funding prize payouts for a small minority. Without widespread participation, races wouldn't be viable.

Alignment with Other Regions – Most other regions have already discontinued prize money, and this change would bring the Eastern League in line with standard practice elsewhere.

Removing prize money would create a more sustainable model, allowing events to focus on delivering great race experiences for all participants.

Proposal from Andy Blower

The League Prize Fund should be run as “Overall League Winner” prize fund not on a race per race basis as it is now.

The reason for this is to ENCOURAGE more riders to race all events, and may prevent the same people winning every week. League rules for participation may be altered to ensure riders race min 8 rounds.

Cost savings to organisers each round would pay for first aid and may encourage more clubs / organisers to step up.

Proposed prize fund structure detailed at Appendix A

The above two proposals are on the same subject of prize money so makes sense to discuss them at once and decide on which, if either, will be adopted. Committee has no real preference either way.

Proposal from Simon Howlett seconded by Ben Howlett

Increase Race Entry Fees

I propose a small increase in race entry fees to better align with other regions and provide greater financial stability for event organizers. This would help reduce the risk of races operating at a loss.

Specifically, I suggest:

A **£2 increase** per entry for adults and juniors

A **£1 increase** per entry for youth and younger categories

This adjustment should be implemented this year and reviewed annually.

Cycling is not a cheap sport, and this modest increase—less than the cost of a cup of coffee—is unlikely to deter participation.

The goal of this proposal is to make events more financially sustainable. If both this and the prize money proposal are adopted, organizers would see a combined benefit of approximately **£800** in savings and additional income. This could encourage more clubs to continue hosting races and potentially attract new clubs by making race organization a viable way to generate funds.

Proposal from Mike Pears seconded by Matt Denny

Increase race entry fees

Eastern is well under what everyone else charges for races. Nominally it's £20. I'd propose we increase the entry fees for Senior and above categories (Keep the kids and juniors as is to retain the spirit of a grass roots sport).

The increase in fees would help with costs that are forever going up, and also offer the potential to “rent” alternative venues that are just currently out of reach for viability. We know we've lost a lot of races and venues recently.

Now to the nay sayers.... A £5 increase to make us in line with everyone else. People will happily pay £50 in fuel to travel to a race and have equipment in the thousands (possibly 10's of thousands), I'd respectfully ask that people take a harder look at their priorities

Both the above proposals are proposing increasing entry fees and I've included both for completeness. We would just need to agree if this is acceptable and what the fee should be. Bear in mind that BC levies will also be going up to £4 per rider from £3 this year.

Proposal from Ben Howlett seconded by Simon Howlett
Addition of an Under 23 Category in the Senior race

I believe introducing an Under-23 (U23) category within the senior race would benefit both younger and older riders while maintaining the current race format and incurring no additional costs.

At present, the senior category covers a wide age range from 18 to 39, which can create an imbalance in competition. By introducing a U23 category within the same race, the league can:

- Provide younger riders with a more level playing field, increasing their chances of competing for an overall league win.
- Allow older senior riders to compete for their own category titles, ensuring fairer and more meaningful competition across all age groups.
- Align with national and international race structures that recognise U23 as a crucial developmental stage.
- Implement this change without additional costs by removing prize money, ensuring a fairer competition structure without financial strain on the league.

This adjustment would not alter the race structure but would create clearer competitive categories, benefiting all participants.

Proposal from Ben Hallam seconded by Alistair Scott
Ask organisers to include a longer U12 course to take in more of the course technical features

There is currently a huge leap, not only in duration, but also in technical skill requirement between the under 12 and under 14 categories. Riders not only have to race for double the amount of time, they have to step from a course that has been risk assessed for under 8s to a course that is designed to challenge adults.

Our proposal is that organisers should be advised to, where possible, include an additional loop in the under 12 course containing one or more technical features that appear on the full course (bank, off camber, plank or run up) that has been risk assessed to be suitable for under 12s but would not be suitable for the younger categories.

Proposal from Mike Pears seconded by Matt Denny
Re useable numbers issued at the start of the year.

Not rocket science and the league has historically done this.

I'm sure that non disposable numbers have a decent lifespan (have no evidence but would guess 5 seasons +), surely we should be trying to be more environmentally friendly by re using rather than throwing away? Sustainability – it's not the 1970's anymore.

There are some knock on effects from the issuing of numbers, as it becomes the responsibility of the rider to remember them. Gone will be the "faff" at signing on, where people queue to sign on while numbers are found – in a sport run by volunteer's those 3 or 4 people at sign on could be reduced and anyone spare could be used for marshalling. We all know we've got a volunteer problem.

Allows people to sort their numbers out on the jerseys at home, the amount of times I've got the arm number in an unreadable position, followed by a one handed adjustment that takes 15 mins to do – it actually allows the riders to sort their kit out in advance

Having the numbers given logical range – eg V40 would be in the 4XX series eg 404, V60 in the 6XX series eg 622. This would help those number calling to identify what category a rider is in when there are mixed category races.

I appreciate there would be some admin, but it's an issue spreadsheet and some organisation at the season start.

It's not quite that simple and in order to do this we would need a dedicated volunteer to organise the numbers including but not limited to moving the uncollected numbers from race to race, dealing with people who have forgotten or lost their numbers, cleaning the returned on-the-day numbers, etc. We haven't used re-useable numbers for at least 10 years and were last administered by Tim and Sandra Butler.

8. AOB

Suggestion from Richard Miller to facilitate coaching sessions for younger riders

At the last committee meeting I proposed running a coaching session for younger riders the day before a race on the full adult course. The idea being that it would allow riders to get familiar with courses prior to a race occurring.

I'd see this as :

- run on the course on the Saturday afternoon before a Sunday race.
- only where a course and organiser allows
- run under my risk assessment as a coach
- only open to 2nd year U12, Youth or Juvenile riders

Appendix A

Current Prize Fund

Category	1	2	3	4	Total by Cat
Under 14 Open	£10	£7	£5		£22
Under 14 Girls	£10	£7	£5		£22
Youth Open	£15	£12	£7		£34
Youth Girls	£15	£12	£7		£34
Senior Women	£20	£15	£10	£5	£50
Veteran Women 40-49	£20	£15	£10	£5	£50
Veteran Women 50-59	£20	£15	£10	£5	£50
Veteran Women 60-69	£20	£15	£10	£5	£50
Veteran Women 70+	£20	£15	£10	£5	£50
Junior Women	£20	£15	£10	£5	£50
Veteran Open 40-49	£20	£15	£10	£5	£50
Veteran Open 50-59	£20	£15	£10	£5	£50
Veteran Open 60-69	£20	£15	£10	£5	£50
Veteran Open 70+	£20	£15	£10	£5	£50
Senior Open	£20	£15	£10	£5	£50
Junior Open	£20	£15	£10	£5	£50
Total Prize Fund Per event					£712

New Proposed for 2025-26 Season based on the number of Rounds

2024-5	10 Rounds				
Category	1st	2nd	3rd	Total by Cat	
Under 14 Open	45	30	15	90	
Under 14 Girls	45	30	15	90	
Youth Open	45	30	15	90	
Youth Girls	45	30	15	90	
Senior Women	100	50	25	175	
Veteran Women 40-49	100	50	25	175	
Veteran Women 50-59	100	50	25	175	
Veteran Women 60-69	100	50	25	175	
Veteran Women 70+	100	50	25	175	
Junior Women	100	50	25	175	
Veteran Open 40-49	100	50	25	175	
Veteran Open 50-59	100	50	25	175	
Veteran Open 60-69	100	50	25	175	
Veteran Open 70+	100	50	25	175	
Senior Open	100	50	25	175	
Junior Open	100	50	25	175	
Total Prize fund if run as a League				2460	
Prize Fund Contribution					
Each Round under new scheme				250	Each Organiser to Pay 250 into the prize fund
Old Scheme (Current)				712	
Cost saving = to paramedic Cost				462	