

Eastern Cyclo Cross League
Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday 24th September 07:30pm
Via Zoom

1. Apologies

Jane DeBoltz. Jane has resigned from the committee due to personal reasons. The Eastern Cyclocross committee would like to thank her for all her work and insight during her time on the committee. Jane will be sorely missed, we wish her well and hope to see her at a cross race soon.

2. Present

Paul Moss, Ian Doe, Ian Poole, Ben Spashett, Pete Whelan, Daniel Doncaster, Mark Wyer, Graham Elliott, Brian Allerton, Dave Copland, Peter Daniels, Lee Rowling, Steve Grimwood, Jo Newstead

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

Ian Doe will ask Sophie Wright about Ron Hunt trophy
Accepted as a true record

4. Haughley Park trial event review

From MSG view. Key learning points - Have venues with sufficient space re car parking and participants. Holding area worked very well. Grid reduced to 5 across with 1.5m between lanes using lanes marked by pins and course tape. Two tight hairpin turns served to single riders out within a couple of minutes. Very favourable comments from all participants. MSG used small flags to mark the course but these were not used on the CX course. Tucked away in the woods where it was not possible to go off course.
From SDCC point of view everything ran super smoothly. It was much easier to organise because MSG had already put up and provided the infrastructure and this was much appreciated. Learnt a lot a should be able to run our own event in December along the same lines.
Commissaires – useful having 4 comms. Little bit of congregating after the race so perhaps marshal to disperse groups. In general all riders very well behaved. All went well.
No issues seen with the starting funnels for gridding but issues may occur if a rider has a problem when leaving the grid. Maybe widen rider space a little and close up the gap between. Timings worked perfectly and there were no delays with starting races.
Sighting lap worked well, could maybe do with two laps rather than one.
Rachel Clarke was used as an independent Covid adviser so everything was run passed her to make sure it was responsible and sensible.
Overall it was a highly successful event with very good feedback. Some things to learn from but it was felt that the event was run above and beyond the current Covid-19 guidelines.

5. Format/viability of running the league & league calendar

Ian has been having discussion with potential organisers. Icenis have chosen not to go to Thickethorn. Ashwell have 10 volunteers and will be happy to come across and run the event on the day. Peter Daniels happy to be the organiser on the day.
Thickethorn, Icenis @ Snetterton, Tank Museum. Colchester Rovers, Amis Velo and Chelmsford could all use Colchester Northern Gateway (open in Jan but not known how much CX course we can use). SDCC at Haughley. XRT Elmys at Trinity Park. So potentially 6 to 8 events
MSG only planning on running Haughley and Thickethorn. MSG are happy to loan tents and

equipment to any organiser who needs it which is very much appreciated
Timings worked well but in the depths of winter we'd be pushing the limits of day light.
With the low numbers of ladies should we move them back to the V40 or V50 races which will free up time and give them some better racing. Agreed to move Ladies to V50 race.
In terms of running a league all races are non ranking so is it a bit disingenuous for us to run a league with points which goes against the BC principle?
We shouldn't encourage riders to travel long distances to attend races in order to fulfil counting races towards a league, particularly if riders are travelling from lock down areas into non lock down areas.
We also don't want riders to race when ill just to fulfil counting races.
Could we come up with an alternative formula to determine winners of a "league"?
Agreed NOT to run a league. Any events that happen will have league support so there will be consistency of events and the league will handle general management including levies and commissaires expenses. Essentially all standalone events will run as a normal league event but without points and prizes.
max field of 80 but dependent on venue so we reserve right to reduce field size
race numbers can be provided by the league if necessary
PM to order 10 sets of numbers with no year on them
Publish on FaceBook and website. Working with potential organisers and venues for some further stand alone races.
Trinity Park race will not be a regional championships

6. Increasing diversity

One of the positions elected to the regional board was an inclusion and diversity officer so good idea to start by contacting her.
To compete regionally and nationally is very expensive and requires family commitment and generally favours "cycling families". The facility based disciplines tend to be the more diverse as it encourages regular attendance in a consistent location and allows loan equipment.
Cross discipline coaching especially to encourage cycle speedway/bmx where a lot of younger riders start their cycling life.
Colchester Northern Gateway along with Twisted Oaks, Phoenix Park will be used to advance community and diversity involvement.
League can offer funding for anything that comes along.
Invite Ben onto the committee

7. Treasurers Report

Not a lot to report as there has been no income or expenditure since March. Accounts attached are the final year accounts for 2019/20 year ended 31st 2020.
The League made a surplus of £372.22 and the Association made a surplus of £2809.32 making an overall surplus of £3181.54. Compared to 2018/19 surplus £1004.73 but this did



Accounts_2019-20.p
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include National Trophy subsidy.

8. Coaching & Development Update

I have formed a Coaching and Development workgroup of Go-Ride club coaches. We had the first meeting on the 14th September. Clubs are starting to run limited coaching sessions again.

I am looking to run some Contenders sessions this season but am waiting for possible event dates before committing to a calendar. I might need some financial support from the Committee but am waiting to hear back from Beastway if they can still support this programme this season.

We are working on Muddy Monsters for Herts and Beds but it will be a reduced series.

I have started compiling a list of candidate coaches for a Level 2 Cyclo-Cross course in or near the region. Please get any other Level 2 coaches interested to contact me.

Three other potential projects for the group are 1. An annual women's and girls coaching day in the region. 2. Online Contenders sessions to supplement the practical sessions. 3. An annual CX coaching conference, possibly online.

Could the Committee please prioritise Under 12, Youth and Junior (male and female) racing in the coming months. Riders in those age groups will lose far more in terms of development than any Veteran riders would. We have a number of very talented juniors that may be possible selections for World Cups and World Championships so it's important we try and support their aspirations.

I'm happy to take the diversity development remit back to the Workgroup if the Committee will commit some money towards the project.

I'm keeping in touch with Matt Ellis (National Cyclo-Cross Coordinator). They are hoping to attend two world cups (assuming they run) in addition to the worlds but the budget is much reduced.

9. AOB

Steve organised an individual TT/2-up cross event which went very well. Everyone was recorded on the gate as they entered. Only really suitable for small numbers and would be a problem if it was cold but overall event was very enjoyable

10. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 5th November

Ben's suggestion for the diversity discussion

1. Talk to Adam Keer about how the council looks at encouraging diversity and social economic inclusion in sport in Suffolk and possible avenues of support (appreciate this may be limited though at the moment).
2. Read and understand the diversity report from British cycling.
3. Open a dialogue with some of the different cycling groups such as the black cycling network to gauge their view on cyclocross.
4. Maybe a bit of dialogue with clubs close to the league on how they encourage grass roots participation from low income families.