

Eastern Cyclo Cross League

Committee Meeting Agenda

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February @ 7:00pm via Zoom

Zoom link ->

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86860648528?pwd=Z0ZVSkt0NHFubENsNXdjTHhHL2FOZz09>

Present: Ian Poole, Paul Moss, Steve Grimwood, Jo Denny, Pete Whelan, Jo Newstead, Ian Doe, Daniel Doncaster

1. Apologies  
James Madgwick, Lee Rowling
2. Minutes of Last Meeting  
All agreed as true record
3. Matters Arising  
None
4. Season Review So Far
  - a. Regional Champs  
Best Regional Champs in the country! Easy to change the course to avoid the woods.
  - b. Icen Velo  
One rider taken to hospital due to crash in the V50 race. Good course and venue.
  - c. Stow Scramble  
Good race. Very cold but everything fine. Catering disappeared a bit early.
  - d. Milton  
Broken collarbone in Youth race. Dealt with by onsite medics. Good course with a few revisions to previous years.
  - e. WSW  
Excellent end to the season. Helped by favourable weather but a great course.
  - f. World Masters  
Professional economic assessment shows about £500,000 brought into the local economy  
Video footage all been uploaded to YouTube  
GCN video  
Drone footage will show grounds impact over coming months.
5. Treasurers Report  
The league accounts are currently at a loss of £427.88 and the Association is at a surplus of £136.18 making an overall loss of £291.70. There still levies to come in from WSW and the final BC levies to pay but overall we will make a slight loss this season. As per previous agreements the Association has underwritten the World Masters which this season has amounted to ~£4,000 but last season the World Masters made a profit of £2404 so overall we've underwritten around £1,600. Still have a very healthy bank balance
6. Coaching update  
League numbers – The numbers competing in the youth and Under 12/Under 10 categories have declined again over this last season but the decline is now slower.  
  
Muddy Monsters – The novice youth series continues to develop young riders around the region.  
  
The Cambridgeshire series was revitalised with rounds at Ely, Milton and Kings Lynn. The Herts and Beds series had over 150 different riders across the categories in the 8 rounds held. Ian Doe and Abi Coles have been running a series in the east of the region and there is the possibility of a Norwich area series.

Youth Coaching – I tried a survey via the League’s facebook page about youth coaching but had only a couple of replies. I didn’t run any regional youth sessions this year as there does not seem to be any demand for the sessions.

Women and Girls Development – I ran a Women and Girls coaching session at Ashwell in October. This was downgraded from a full Coaching and Racing day due to low numbers booked on. This was possibly due to the date being in half term.

Coach Development – I tutored a Level 2 Cyclo-Cross Course at Welwyn in February. 6 more coaches from the region have now gained the award.

A big thanks to all the coaches and volunteers who have been working on developing young riders this season. Whilst numbers have declined since the pandemic I am confident that things will start to pick up soon.

Next Season – Unfortunately due to work pressures, I will have to stand down from the Coaching and Development Role.

## 7. AGM

### a. Proposals from David Hales

1. A defibrillator is purchased by the association. This would be taken to each event. Given the current situation in the health Service it would be wise to invest just in case. It is not a pre-requisite for First Aid at our events currently.

**First aid cover at all events should already provide defibrillator and gas/air facilities. The other problem is that defibrillators need maintenance in terms of batteries and pads.**

2. Padding: I would like the association to purchase 10 padding type mats, to be used solely at events where there is an obvious need. At the Icení Velo event there were 2 mats available but there should have been another 5-6 in place for the safety of riders, and to prevent injury.

**We can buy mats/padding but we have no facility to store and move them about. Ian D (BC) does have access to padding which organisers can ask him for. Encourage organisers to avoid the need for padding. Should be a BC regional asset.**

### b. Proposal from Rob Smith seconded by Clive Tricker

50 to 59 riders to start at specified time followed by 60+ riders 1 minute later. There has been a number of crashes at the start and there are massive bottle necks at the back of the field.

The 60+ riders to be scored separate from 50 to 59 riders. Spread sheets attached showing the difference it would have made to this year’s league results for the 60+ riders.

Prize money to be equal for both categories.

### c. Proposal from Andrew Roberts (essentially the same proposal as Rob Smith’s)

With the increasing number of 60+ participants it is proposed that they should be split from the 50+ riders and given a separate start.

This would have a potential number of benefits.

It would stop the two categories influencing each other’s races i.e. the melee on the opening laps can often affect both categories’ abilities to stay in contact with the riders they are actually competing with for League and National Ranking Points. (With additional riders moving into 60+ next season the problem will be further exacerbated.

It could free up more space for entries in the 50+ category which is often fully subscribed.

It would encourage older riders to continue racing after reaching the 60+ category and could encourage out of region 60+ riders to compete in Eastern region events if space was available.

The quality of racing in both categories could benefit from this.

An option that could be considered would be that the 60+ category could be started with another category such as the 40+ as their numbers appear to have reduced. It would appear to me that this is a natural progression. I'm sure many can remember when all the categories (other than youth) competed together in one event and then as participation numbers increased the veterans and juniors were given a separate race then later the 50+ riders were split off and more recently the 60+ have been separated in National Trophy events.

**Proposal is to have a separate V60+ race with separate points. Decision on which race it should start behind can be decided by committee at the beginning of the season based on anticipated numbers in V40 or V50 race.**

d. Proposal from Mike Pears

I know the whole electronic results item was discussed last year and discounted based on cost.

In a similar theme, why are we supplying disposable numbers at the start of each race when riders could be issued a usable number for the whole year?

These numbers could then subsequently be re-used and re-issued for a number of years

The London league manage to cope with this issue and return of numbers on a yearly basis (including the RFID tags, but let's not resurrect that discussion!)

Think of sustainability, the environment and the planet's future? (Maybe there's even a cost saving here?)

**To be discussed at AGM but League is not in favour mainly because logistically handling reusable numbers is much more difficult. Riders forget or ruin numbers so replacements are always required. The judging system will need to be able to match the rider number with the start sheet which will cause a lot of work for the league co-ordinator. Tyvek numbers are recyclable but not biodegradable.**

e. Proposal from Peter Golding

Include a Novice Race at each event

To encourage more cyclists to have a go at racing, I would like to propose that a Novice race is held at each event. This need not be a stand-alone race but could be included in one of the less supported categories.

At least three other leagues have a Novice race as part of their events. Each one of these have combined it with their youth race (under 16 /under14).

No points are awarded as ability is not part of cyclocross discipline.

Restrictions are also put on the Novices, i.e. Have not raced CX before, only allowed to be a novice for one season / a limited amount of races in that season. If it is apparent the Novice is of a reasonable standard they must then enter their respective category.

**To be discussed but League is not in favour. Timings do not allow a separate race so a Novice race would have to be incorporated into another race. The committee is not comfortable with this being the Youth race as this may cause more problems with some very fast youth riders lapping some very inexperienced novice riders. The committee doesn't see that there is really a need to provide a novice race**

f. Proposal from Peter Golding

Review league prize list

The Race organiser pays the prize money from race entries, if I have my maths right that's £704 at each race, the cost of putting on events continues to rise, venue hire, First Aid, toilets etc, yet the greatest single outlay is prize money

Furthermore the prize money is not equal across all categories and in most cases it is the same group of winners at each race, yet for the majority of the league entrants winning 'coffee & cake' money remains a 'Pipe Dream'.

I feel there should be a better way of rewarding all who race.

My proposals are:

1. Scrap the prize money all together and reduce the entry fee by £2 Favoured)
2. Scrap the prize money all together and reduce the entry fee by £1
3. Reduce the prize list so that each senior category receives the same without increasing the overall pot i.e. 1st £20 2nd £15 3rd £10 4th £5

**Opposed to scrapping prize money. Confirm with Pete what he is trying to achieve and to clarify option 3. Counter proposal to make parity across all categories without increasing overall prize fund.**

g. Proposal from Peter Golding

I would like to propose that the league purchases 'Feather Flags' to be used at all events.

I entered races at several different leagues last season and noticed how effective the feather flags were at marking the entrance to venue's, either side of podiums, or as indicators for Start/Finish lines. I believe that if the Eastern Cyclocross league were also to purchase some feather flags, this would enhance our events and present a welcoming feel to newcomers and visitors alike.

Prices range from approximately £80 - £120 dependant on the size selected

**Same problem as padding and defibs. Any assets would have to be transported to each race by somebody and be managed and stored by the league somewhere.**

8. AOB

Dave has provided participation graphs below

Box of mugs and T-Shirts from World Masters to do something with

Ian D will be visiting two new courses in next couple of weeks.

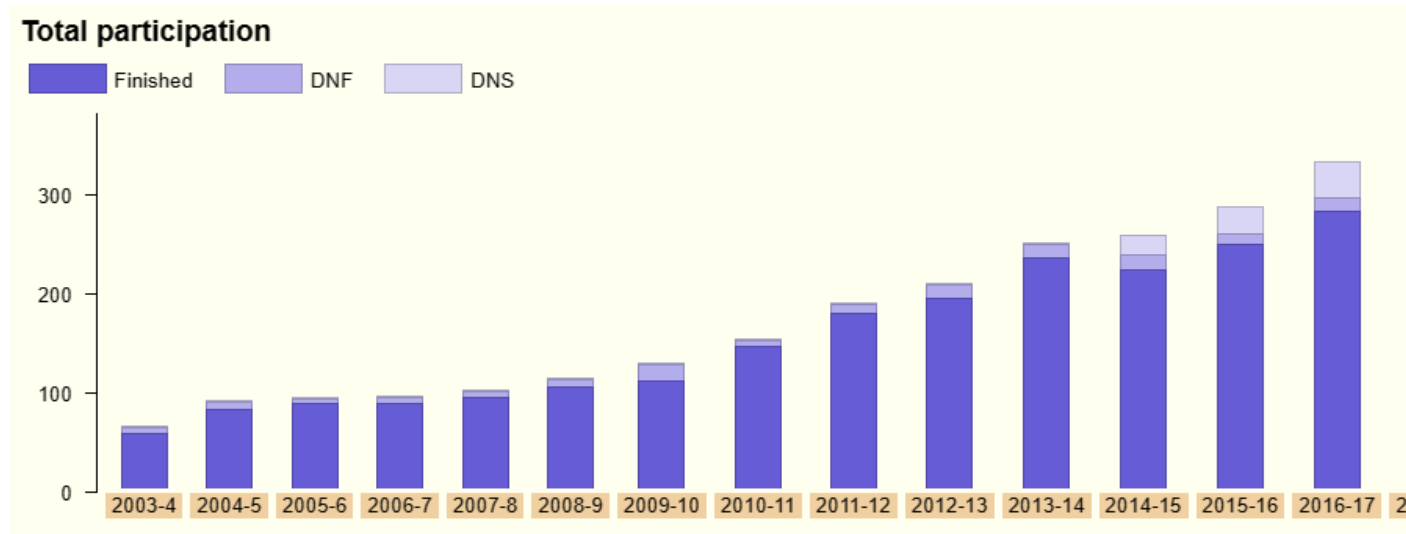
National Trophy events will be released shortly

Steve G will arrange a yearbook again this year.

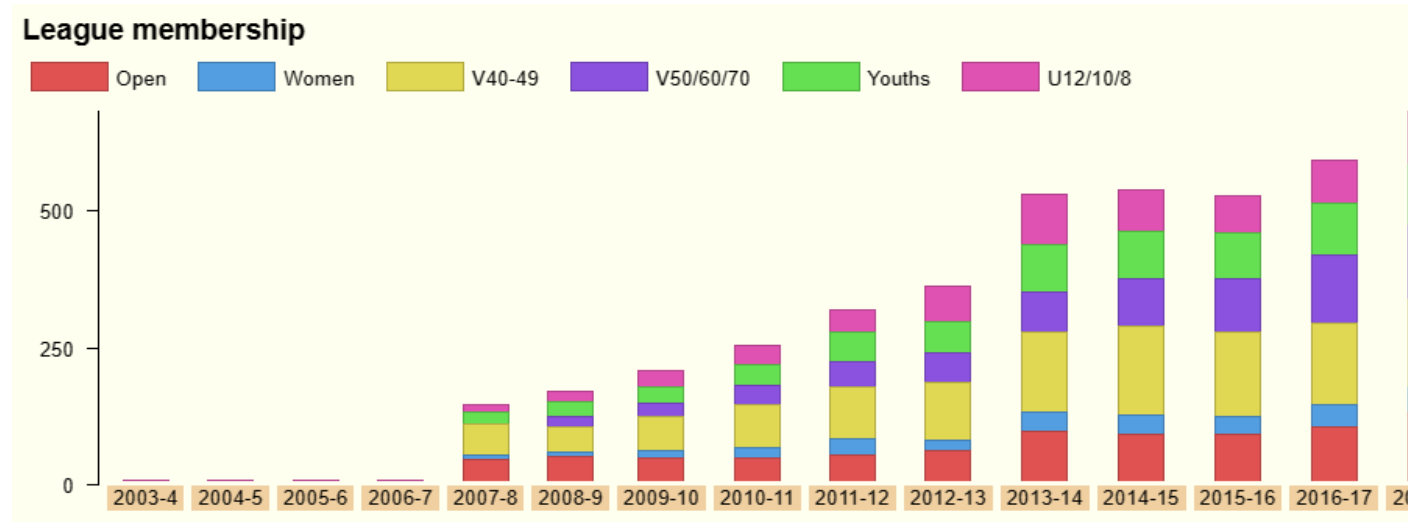
9. Date of Next Meeting

To be decided at AGM

1. Total participation across all categories. In the chart you can see how many riders entered, started, and finished each event on average each season. There's a fairly obvious post-pandemic drop off. The relatively high number of DNS in some years are probably due in part to women and V50 riders entering the Open race but then transferring to the Women/V50 race.

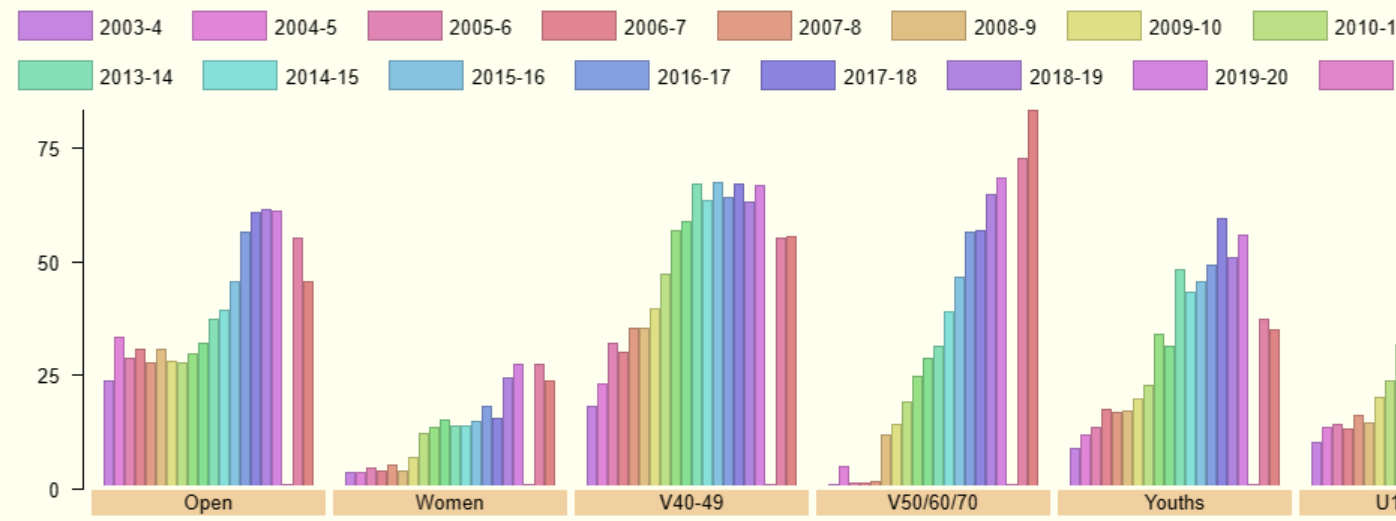


2. Total League membership. This is broken down into more or less our current race groupings, except that I've combined the U12 and U10 riders. There's a drop off since a peak in 2017-18, which is only partly explained by the pandemic.

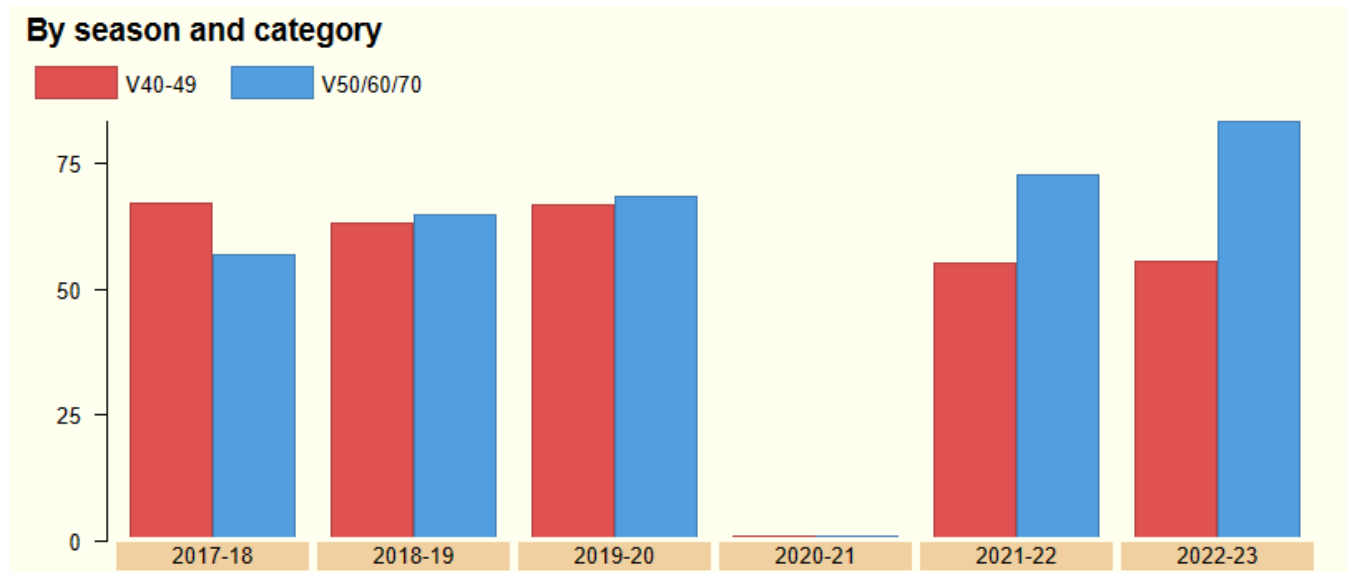


3. Participation broken down by current race groups and season. Most categories show either a drop or a levelling off post-pandemic, except the V50+ categories. I conclude that once they've started, no-one ever stops riding cyclo-cross.

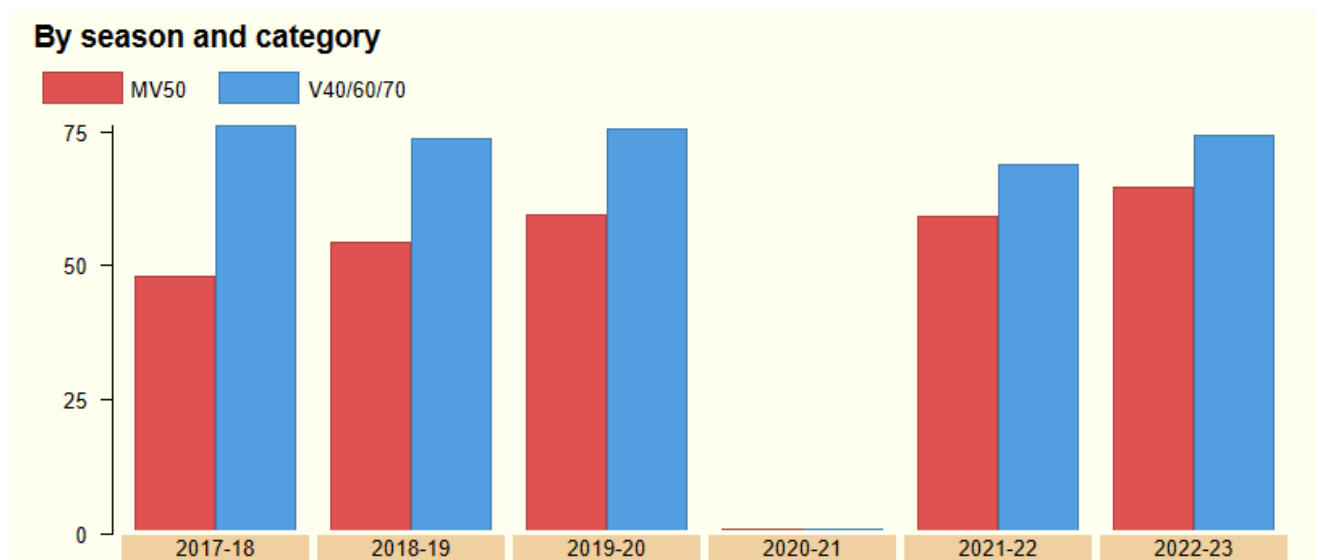
### By category and season



4. An illustration of what the effect would have been of having the V60 men riding with the V40s over the last few seasons. Here's the current arrangement, showing that the V40 and V50 races have been getting more and more unbalanced as time goes on.



And here's how it would have looked if we put the V60s in with the V40s. It would have been unbalanced in the past, but much less so now.

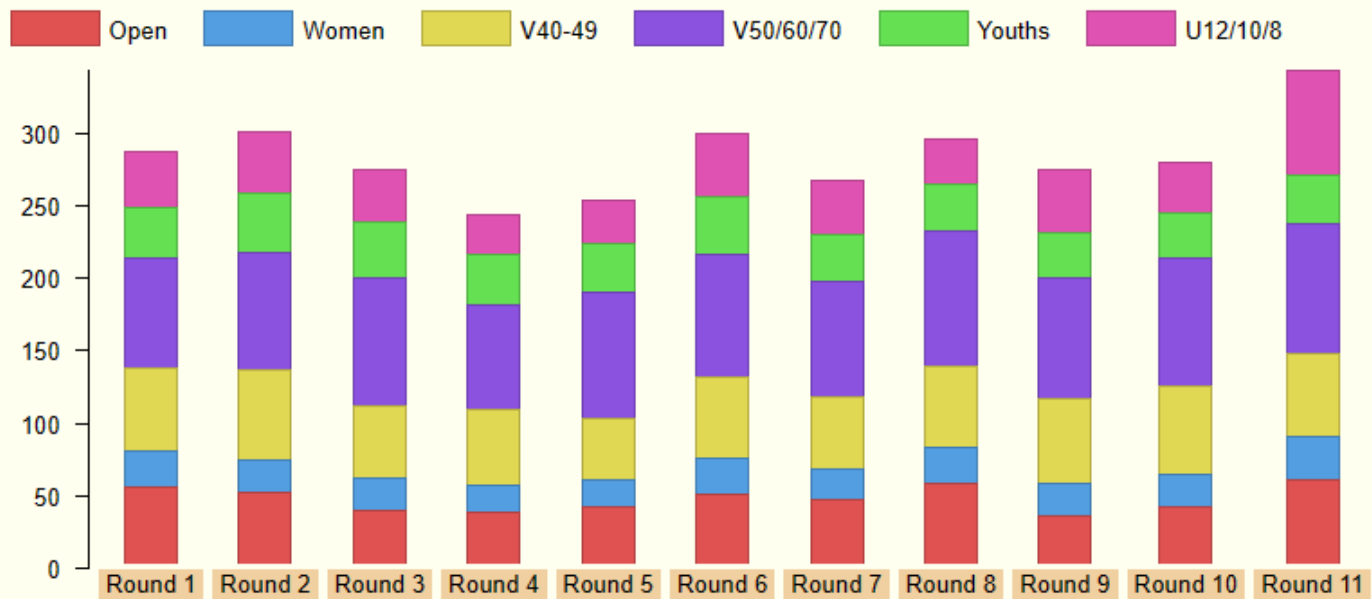




Finally, here's a round-by round breakdown of participation over the last couple of seasons. We've traditionally held the view that the number of riders goes down significantly as the weather gets worse towards the end of the season. That doesn't seem to be happening now, or if it does, the effect is minor.

### By season and round

#### 2022-23



#### 2021-22

