

Minutes

Apologies: Andy Blower, Ian Poole, Michaela Norfolk, Nick Rush

1. **Minutes of AGM held on 21st March 2024**

Agreed as a true and accurate record. Lee Rowling Sec Pete Golding

2. **Matters arising**

No matters arising

3. **Chairman's Report**

Thank you to all the organisers, volunteers and helpers.

It's been a good year. Some standout events and well done to all the organisers. Well done to all our riders especially Ellie Mitchinson who represented GB at the World Cups and World Championships.

4. **Treasurers Report**

As always this AGM actually covers up to 31st August 2024 but I will detail where we are with the accounts so far this year.

Balance at the end of August 2024 was £26,363.83. Overall we made a loss of £2018.33 with the league making the majority of that loss at £2159.76 and the Association making a tiny surplus of £140.93.

We funded young riders to the tune of £300 which was for Ellie Mitchinson to ride in the World Cup races in Europe.

So far this season we are running at a loss of £3382 with the Association losing £1864.54 and the League losing £1518.38. This year we were delighted to be able to fund a number of junior riders to help fund racing in the National Trophies and Ellie Mitchinson again at the World Cups and the World Championships. This has been helped by R & A Graphics who are supplying the numbers this year at cost so that we can use the difference to fund a bursary scheme. In total we have used £1800.

In general League Registrations are down and race entries are down which means the income has been affected. It should be pointed out that it was always the intention to not hold a massive bank balance and we've been actively trying to reduce it by funding young riders where we can.

There are some proposals to increase race entry fees in part because of the increase in BC race levies and in part to help organisers with event costs. These will have little affect on our income as most of the income comes from league registrations and area levies, neither of which are proposed to be increased.

I would propose that we keep league registrations and levies as they for this season and accept that we will continue to make losses in the hope that we will not lose too many riders or organisers.

5. **Coaching and Development Report**

Focus during 2024/25 season was to develop provision for Youth C (under 12) and Youth B (under 14) to ensure riders do not drop out of cyclocross.

Identified issues for transition from Youth C to Youth B are:

Increased length of race (fitness)

Increased technical challenge (less of an issue at regional level; but issue at National Trophy/ Championship)

Cost of equipment

Pilot 'youth training' project launched at Colchester Northern Gateway (CNG):

Initial six week cycle fitness on circuit (incorporated road riding skill development) extended to ten due to good attendance (April 2024- June 2024)

Weekly off road fitness (intervals etc) including cyclocross specific skills (June 2024- October 2025)

All sessions well attended (regular attendance from CRCC and Hadleigh CC as well as riders from Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridge and Chelmsford) which meant charge for sessions covered facility hire

Next steps are to:

Share resources with Eastern Region coaches through setting up Eastern Coach's group

Launch Youth Training Days leading up to 2025 season (combining specialist input workshops, skills and coach led racing)

Supported an Eastern Youth team at Inter Region Cyclocross event at Clearfield round of National Trophy (thanks to Benson Ho for managing/ leading team).

Thank you Simon Wilson for all your work this year

6. League Co-Ordinator

See partition stats below at Appendix B. There has been a notable increase in Under 12 riders but a general decline in other race entries and in league registrations. We don't appear to have suffered as much as some disciplines though and numbers are still good.

7. 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	Benson Ho Daniel Doncaster Richard Miller Jo Denny

Proposed en-bloc Dave Copland, Jo Denny

8. 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.

[Amendment from Peter Golding to retain cash prize fund for Youth categories only and remove for all other categories. Seconded by Simon Wilson.](#)

[Floor voted against. Proposal not carried
4 for. 11 against](#)

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.](#)

[None in favour
Proposal not carried](#)

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.

Counter proposal from Richard Miller seconded by Russell to increase entry fee for seniors from £15 to £17

12 for, 4 against

Proposal carried so race entry fees will go up by £2 next season

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.

8 for, 5 against

Proposal carried

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.

[Floor voted to take to committee to investigate where this might be possible](#)

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.

Good discussion but needs further discussion on ways that this might be possible in future years. Logistically the way we do judging and would have to handle re-useable numbers would require considerable thought and dedicated volunteers. Proposal was withdrawn

9. 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

Committee extends thanks to Richard and we would look to support organisers to facilitate this happening.

Appendix A

Current Prize Fund

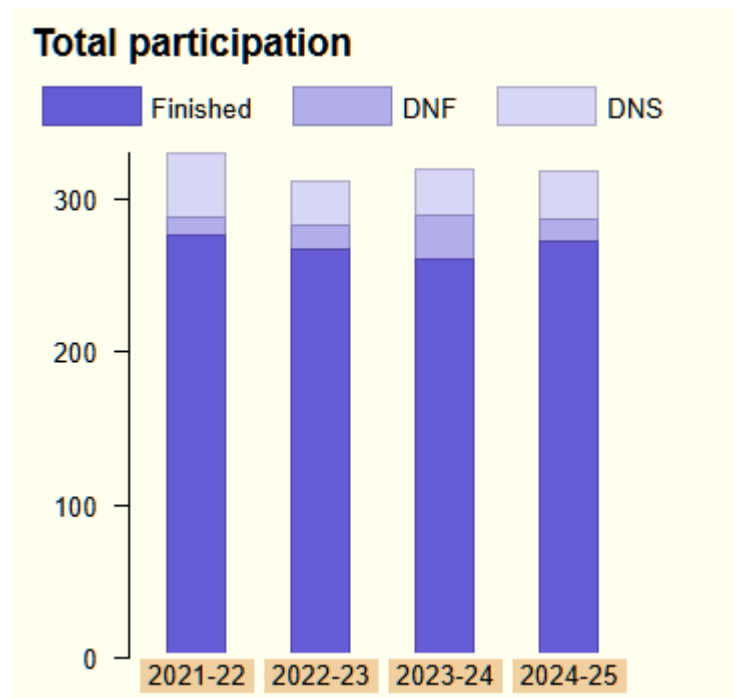
Category	1	2	3	4	Total by Cat
Under 14 Open	£10	£7	£5		£22
Under 14 Girls	£10	£7	£5		£22
Youth Open	£15	£12	£7		£34
Youth Girls	£15	£12	£7		£34
Senior Women	£20	£15	£10	£5	£50
Veteran Women 40-49	£20	£15	£10	£5	£50
Veteran Women 50-59	£20	£15	£10	£5	£50
Veteran Women 60-69	£20	£15	£10	£5	£50
Veteran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

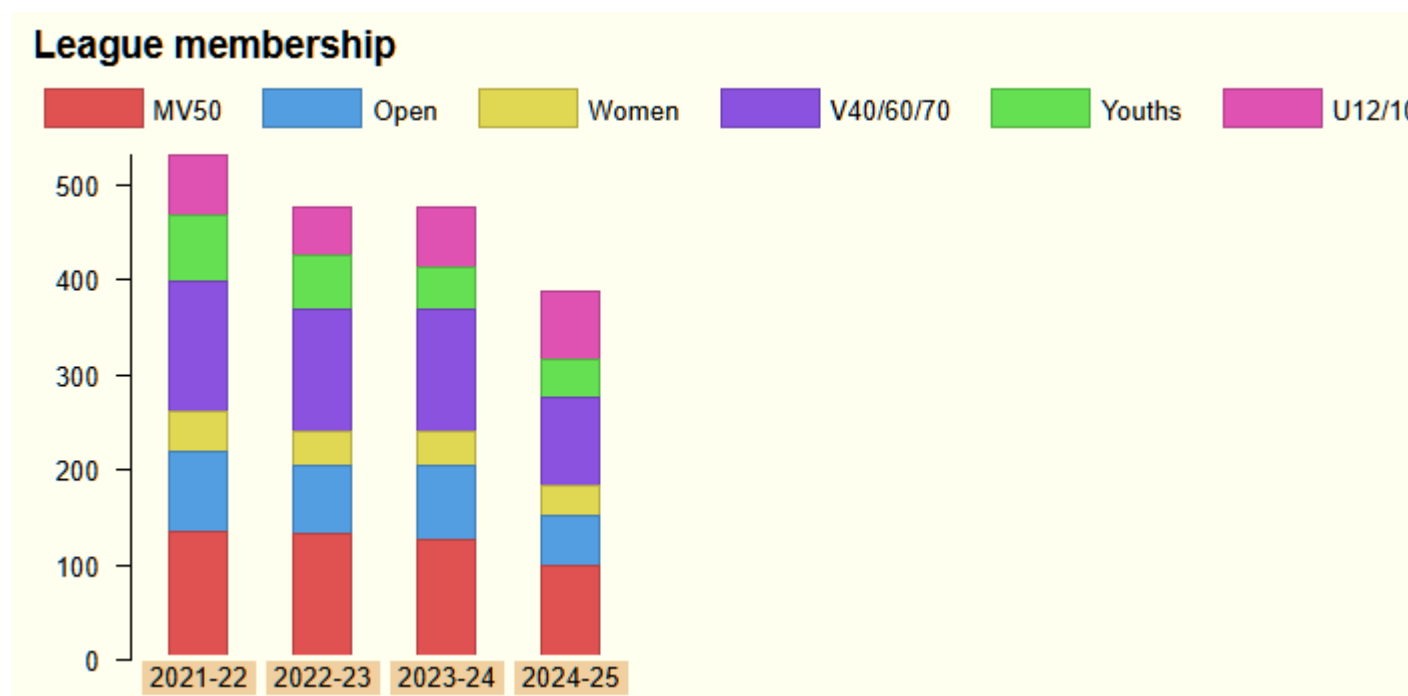
2024-5	10 Rounds				
Category	1st	2nd	3rd	Total by Cat	
Under 14 Open	45	30	15	90	
Under 14 Girls	45	30	15	90	
Youth Open	45	30	15	90	
Youth Girls	45	30	15	90	
Senior Women	100	50	25	175	
Veteran Women 40-49	100	50	25	175	
Veteran Women 50-59	100	50	25	175	
Veteran Women 60-69	100	50	25	175	
Veteran 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	

Appendix B

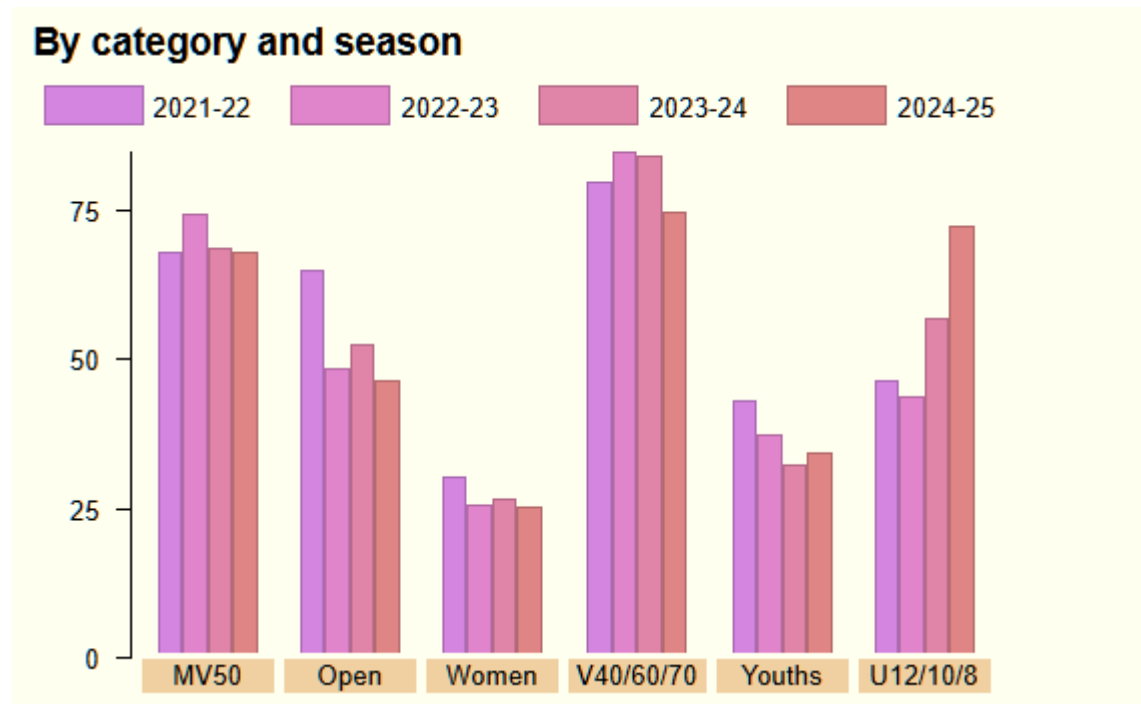
1. Total participation across all categories. In the chart you can see how many riders entered, started, and finished each event on average each season.



2. Total League membership. This is broken down into more or less our current race groupings, except that the U12 and U10 riders are combined.



3. Participation broken down by current race groups and season.



Finally, here's a round-by round breakdown of participation over the last couple of seasons. If anything, there's a slight increase in participation as the 2024-25 season progressed.

