

Waldrons West Midlands Cyclo Cross League (WMCCL)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 26 FEBRUARY 2012

Venue – Halesowen A & CC

Minutes

Attendees: David Miller, Gordon Siers, Anne Barnett, Nick Barnett, David Feiven, Martin Eadon, David Garrett, Matthew Harris, Dave Mellor, John Potts, Sally Potts, Gary Rowing-Parker, Mick Davies, Chloe Potts, Kevin Payton, Andy Jones, Neil Lawford, Gerry Blackmoor, Keith Evans, Mark Leyland, Neville Gunn, John Crumpton, Ruth Eyles, Paul Haines, Dean Barnett, Garry Townsend, Sue Payton, Hannah Payton, Tom Payton

Apologies: Chris Ife

1. Chairman's report – David Miller

DMi described what he saw as probably our most successful season to date:

- an increase in the number of rounds to 13
- new organisers
- new venues
- a higher number of League registered riders than ever before
- and, most significantly, a new sponsorship deal with Waldrons Solicitors, who have just confirmed their commitment to our League for another two years

Twelve months ago, the Committee's aim was to move the standard of the League forward and whilst there is still a lot to do, there have been a number of notable achievements:

- a new website
- online League registrations
- transparent and regular Committee meetings
- an increase in trained commissaires
- our first venture into experimenting with chip timing
- and, most importantly, some fantastic achievements by our League riders, not only within the League, but at regional and national level too

A very big thank you to our sponsors, organisers and their band of volunteers, committee members and all riders and their supporters for all their hard work, time and effort in making this League one of the biggest and most successful in the country. DMi concluded by emphasising that everyone needs to all work together going forward, to make next season even better.

2. Treasurer's report – Gordon Siers

GS circulated the accounts for 2011/12 and confirmed income was up £2,960 on this time last year due an increase in riders throughout the season. Expenditure had increased as the Committee invested in equipment and the chip timing trial service to improve the overall standard of the League; however, this had been broadly covered by the additional income generated.

The elected Committee for next season should continue to consider how best to invest in the income received to continually improve the League.

3. Secretary's report – Anne Barnett

A total of 624 riders registered for the League across all the categories from U6 to Vet 75+. A breakdown of these riders will be posted on the website and in summary showed:

- The majority of riders are either U16 or 40+
- There is a noticeable dip in the Junior and Senior age categories
- We have a growing number of Lady riders
- We hope that all the work DF has done to increase the U16 numbers will see more continue help to grow the junior, ladies and senior leagues over the coming seasons
- The Vets categories have seen a consistently high number of riders and this will easily be maintained with the number of current Sen 30+ riders moving through, as well as existing Vet 40+ and Vet 45+ regularly riding the League

Analysis has also been undertaken to identify how many rounds riders participated in:

- Whilst League registrations were high (624), only 165 riders (26%) rode enough rounds (10 or more) to qualify for maximum league points
- 47 registered riders in the junior and above categories rode no events
- 133 riders (40%) U16 and below rode three events or less

Waldrons WMCCCL riders have represented the League very well regionally, nationally and even internationally. The following riders from the League are worthy of particular mention:

- National Trophy Series
 - U23 3rd Lee Westwood
 - Ladies 1st Hannah Payton (and 1st Junior), 4th Louise Robinson, 5th Isla Rowntree
 - Juniors 2nd Alex Welburn
 - Vets 40+ 2nd Darren Atkins
 - Vets 50+ 3rd Ian Wright, 5th Mick Davies
 - Youths U16 1st Jack Ravenscroft 3rd Danny Fox
 - Youths U14 4th Ewan Grivell-Mellor
 - Youths U14 Female 1st Charlotte Broughton
- National Championships
 - Lady Juniors 1st Hannah Payton 2nd Bethany Crumpton
 - Lady Vets 1st Louise Robinson 2nd Isla Rowntree
 - Juniors 2nd Alex Welburn
 - Vets 40+ 2nd Darren Atkins
 - Vets 45+ 2nd Phil Roach
 - Vets 50+ 3rd Mick Davies, 5th Ian Wright
 - Vet 65+ 1st Victor Barnett
 - Youths U16 1st Jack Ravenscroft
 - Youths U14 Female 1st Charlotte Broughton 2nd Sophie Capewell
- Inter Area Championships
 - 1st in the Seniors, Juniors, Youths
 - 2nd in the Women, Vets
- UCI World Masters in Kentucky, USA
 - Vets 50+ 4th Phil Roach and Vets 65+ 1st Victor Barnett

4. League Coordinators' reports – David Feiven and Nick Barnett

David Feiven

There was a big increase in registered numbers this season, compared to the previous season, mainly due to the requirement for all U16 riders to register in the League, regardless of the number of rounds they intended to ride. This was broken down as follows:

Youth

Registrations – 132

Round 4 (Choose Cycling - Top Barn Farm) saw the most entries – 76

Round 10 (Cycle Shack/Forme Coaching - Tackeroo) saw the least entries – 46

The average number of Youth riders per round – 61

U12

Registrations – 82

Round 5 (Wolverhampton Wheelers CC – Aldersley) saw the most entries – 52

Round 8 (Stratford CC – Norgren Social Club) saw the least entries – 35

The average number of U12 riders per round – 42

U10

Registrations – 136

Rounds 6 (Solihull CC – Elmdon Park) & 7 (Welland Valley CC – Misterton) saw the most entries – 62

Round 2 (Mid Shropshire Wheelers – Sundorne Sports Village) saw the least entries – 37

The average number of U10 riders per round – 52

There had been a great deal of very good competition provided by the event organisers. However, going forward, the elected Committee in conjunction with event organisers should consider, from a health and safety point of view, the impact of the competitive environment on the youngest of riders and those parents who followed them round the course.

DF acknowledged that there had been teething problems and some issues with data using the chip timing results service from Round 9, with results up to Round 8 being posted quickly on the website, without issue. DF emphasised that he did believe electronic timing was the correct way forward, and that the elected Committee would need to work with a chosen provider to ensure everything was in place from both sides for the service to be as effective as possible.

Nick Barnett

NB thanked all of the organisers and their helpers for contributing towards another very successful season. Whilst the events had run well in the main, NB suggested the organisation on the day needed to change to accommodate the growing numbers of juniors, ladies and vets riders. He had received a number of complaints from juniors and ladies', regarding the aggression from some vets riders, and this coupled with the frequent swearing had put some individuals off competing.

NB thanked the commissaires for their support throughout the season and confirmed there were now 8 trained commissaires, as well as another 4 trainees. A further cyclo-cross commissaires' training course is scheduled for 8 September 2012 at a Midlands venue (tbc) and volunteers should contact AB if interested in attending.

Next season, NB recommended the allocation of 3 commissaires per event due to the growing number of riders and to provide back-up in case of a commissaire 'no-show' as had been experienced this season.

5. Additional item: Sponsorship report – David Garrett

DG has been the main contact and liaison point with Adrian Witt (AW), senior partner at Waldrons, throughout the season. After 12 months, AW has confirmed he and his colleagues have been very impressed with the quality and organisation of events and the overall organisation of the League. Waldrons has been monitoring their website traffic on a Sunday and Monday and seen peaks at these times, which they have put down to referrals from our League website.

AW has confirmed Waldrons commitment to the League for a further 2 years, contributing £2,000 p.a. in sponsorship.

Although one negative comment had been received by the Committee at the start of the season, expressing concern that 'ambulance chasers' were being allowed access to our riders, no further negative comments had been received and DG thanked Waldrons for their genuine interest and support to our League.

6. Committee proposals for the 2012/2013 season

A number of proposals were discussed in full by those present, with the outcomes of each being voted in by all, or the majority. No one present voted 'no' to any of the following proposals:

- a) To qualify for League points, all riders in every category must register for the League by 5.00pm on the Friday before the first round. This will be included in the BC handbook.
- b) The elected Committee should proceed to tender for an electronic timing service for use at all League events, to produce a same day provisional result and then allocate League points and update all Leagues (including the Team League) once the event organiser and the company have resolved any rider queries. The tender should identify essential and desirable criteria and be specific on roles and responsibilities of both the company and the League. Race queries should be referred to each event organiser in the first instance, who will then liaise with a designated company contact.
- c) The total League points a rider can earn in any one season is the total of all rounds less their lowest three, assuming they ride all available rounds. For the 2012/2013 season it will therefore be the best 9 results from 12 rounds.
- d) Each race will be split as follows:
 - 10:15 Under 10s, 10 min race, signing on from 09:15
 - 10:35 Under 12s, 15 min race, signing on from 09:15
 - 11:30 Vets 50+, Ladies, Juniors, 40 min race, signing on from 10:30
 - 13:15 Youths, 30 min race, signing on from 11:30
 - 14:15 Vets 40+ and Seniors, 50 min race, signing on from 11:30

This will be trialled for next season and reviewed at the 2013 AGM.

The timetable above will be published on the website, be included in the event organiser's pack and be confirmed to BC for inclusion in the handbook.

- e) Each race will be gridded by League category, using average League points or BC national ranking points, i.e.
- U10
 - U12
 - Juniors, Vets 50+, Ladies
 - Youth U16, Youth U14
 - Seniors, Vets 40+
- f) To assist event organisers to fund an electronic timing results service, race fees will increase as follows:
- By £2 to £12 for riders in the Seniors, Vets and Women categories
 - By £2 to £10 for riders in the Junior category (male and female)
 - By £1 to £6 in the Youth category
- (All U12 races remain the same)

This brings the League in line with the majority of other regions, with some regions still costing more.

7. Committee recommendations for the 2012/2013 season

A number of recommendations were discussed in full by those present, with the outcomes of each being agreed by all, or the majority. No one present was against any of the following recommendations:

- a) In an aim to standardise the race starts, where possible riders will be gridded in a 6m wide area, in rows of 8, and the start will be called 10 mins before and counted down at minute intervals, any rider who misses his/her gridding will be placed at the back. Event organisers and commissaires on the day will deal with this recommendation pragmatically, depending on the size of the start area and course.
- b) Event organisers should aim to run a Cat B event wherever possible, to increase the number of BC ranking points available to riders. This means there should be covered changing, toilet facilities, commentary and a public address system, and a podium.

DMi confirmed the Committee were in the process of purchasing a PA system and all required associated equipment and Adrian Elson had kindly agreed to be the League's commentator next season and transport the equipment to each event.

DG updated the meeting to explain BC were currently looking at the category definitions and hoped to redefine these before the start of next season, to make it easier for an event to qualify for Cat B status. In the meantime, event organisers and commissaires should work towards the current standards.

- d) An event organiser's pack will be emailed to every League event organiser to include the proposals and recommendations agreed today.
- e) A Press Officer will be appointed to act as a liaison with Snowdon Sports for publishing a

same day brief report and top three results per category. AB confirmed Jacob James has already kindly agreed to fulfil this role for next season.

- f) The League will look to fund an increased level of European trips for promising riders in the U16 Youth, Junior and U23 categories who support League events, assuming the required level of volunteers and parents come forward and that they have all attended the BC safeguarding children course and they are CRB checked. The selection criteria for the riders benefiting from these trips must be transparent.

8. League dates – 2012/2013

Next season's dates were discussed, allocated and agreed. A request had been submitted to hold a League event on the same day as the Midland Championships and all those present agreed that this should not be supported and the Midland Championships should take preference.

The 2012/2013 League will consist of 12 rounds as follows:

- 16/09/2012 – Round 1: Redditch R & P CC/Beacon RCC at Pitcher Oak Woods
- 23/09/2012 – Round 2: Mid Shropshire Wheelers at Sundorne Sports Village
- 30/09/2012 – Round 3: Lichfield CCC at Tackeroo Campsite
- 07/10/2012 – Round 4: Wolverhampton Wheelers CC at Aldersley Leisure Village
- 21/10/2012 – Round 5: Solihull CC at Elmdon Park
- 28/10/2012 – Round 6: Welland Valley CC at Misterton Hall
- 25/11/2012 – Round 7: Stratford CC at Moreton Morrell (tbc)
- 02/12/2012 – Round 8: Halesowen A & CC at Baggeridge Country Park
- 30/12/2012 – Round 9: Cycle Shack/Forme Coaching at Tackeroo Campsite
- 20/01/2013 – Round 10: Newport CC at Newport Rugby Club
- 27/01/2013 – Round 11: Wolverhampton Wheelers CC at Aldersley Leisure Village
- 03/02/2013 – Round 12: Rugby Velo at Borough Hill, Daventry (tbc)

9. Committee members for 2012/2013

The following individuals were elected onto the Committee for the 2012/2013 season:

Chairman: David Miller

Treasurer: Gordon Siers

Secretary: Anne Barnett

League Coordinator: David Feiven

Committee members: Nick Barnett, David Garrett, Matthew Harris, Chris Ife, Dave Mellor, John Potts, Sally Potts, Gary Rowing-Parker

AB confirmed she would undertake the role of Secretary to include receiving and managing all League registrations and producing signing-on sheets for email to all event organisers, as well as arranging and minuting all Committee meetings and the AGM. AB confirmed she would not become involved in signing-on on the day or in producing the results and/or handling riders' results queries.

DF confirmed his League coordinator role would involve liaising with each event organiser prior to the day to ensure they had all the information and support they required.

The Committee agreed to co-opt other individuals as and when required during the season.

10. AOB

DMi reminded all those present that the League's forum on the website was publicly available to view and that, on occasions, some comments had been personal and therefore deemed inappropriate. Everyone associated with the League was requested to post their comments in line with the League's code of conduct.

DMi thanked everyone for their attendance today and closed the meeting.