

WMCCL AGM Minutes
2pm, Sunday 28th May 2023
Venue: The Ark, Alvechurch

Attendees

Gary Rowing Parker (GRP)	Gordon Siers (GS)
Hugh Jackson (HJ)	Sally Potts (SP)
John Potts (JP)	Mick Davies (MD)
Mike Cooper (MC)	Mick Ives (MI)
Pete Mooney (PM)	Dave Mellor (DM)
Clinton Heywood (CH)	Phil Metcalfe (PM)
Pete Varian (PV)	

1. Apologies

- 1.1. Paul Berry
- 1.2. Michelle Paget
- 1.3. Judith Harper
- 1.4. Tom Wilson – British Cycling WM
- 1.5. Mark Leyland

2. Minutes of 2022 AGM

- 2.1. 8th May 2022 –
- 2.2. PV – Query whether clause D(b) of the constitution needs updating.
 - **Action – WMCCL Secretary: Update of constitution to be proposed at the next AGM**
- 2.3. **Action – WMCCL Secretary: Upload copy of minutes to the website not less than 28 days prior to the next AGM with draft agenda.**

3. Chair's Report

- 3.1. Chair's report see Appendix I for details. The following are summaries of the subsequent discussions.
- 3.2. Participation
 - PM – felt league entry fees are too high.
 - MI – Lack of prize money is turning people away. Why can the league not provide prizes? MI is bringing sponsorship into the sport through his team and suggested there is money out there.
 - GRP – no levies at BMCR events but BC charge levies for insurance cover etc. There is also the contract with first aid, chip timing, paying for venues. While rounds each have different costs the League needs consistency in entry fees across the board to cover the worst case. The league also requires venues with required facilities for the level of event.
 - DM - profit can be made on TT with no levies, no venue, no first aid. Circuits are harder to break even but CX even harder to make an event viable.
 - PV – parking charges at Blackwell Court made the event break even but became unsustainable.
- 3.3. Entry system
 - Rider HQ or BC system for 2023/24?
 - MD - RiderHQ much better than BC system for data processing for both entries and results. Feedback and technical response to queries from RiderHQ has been good.

- GRP – template events exist and additional assistance for organisers will be discussed at an organisers meeting.
- CH had issues with refunds but the experience of others was it should be easier in RiderHQ than BC system.

3.4. Committee structure

- GS stepping down as Treasurer after very long service - GRP thanked GS years for service
- HJ stepping down as Secretary – no nominations for Treasurer.
- 3 new members joining the committee, can be co-opted.
 - Paul Berry
 - Michelle Paget
 - Judith Harper

3.5. PV suggested that potential venues should be put forwards to the committee for vetting.

4. Treasurer Report

4.1. Audited accounts see Appendix II

- PM – Queried prize presentation cost.
- GRP & JP explained the committee had selected a venue capable of holding 200+ people as the previous prize presentation had been quite cramped. There are a limited number of venues of that size available and suitably located for people around the region.

4.2. Action – All WMCCL members: The committee welcomes suggestions of alternative appropriate venues.

5. Election of Officers

5.1. Chair

- Gary Rowing Parker proposed by Dave Mellor. Great initiatives during his time as Chair.
- Seconded by Sally Potts
- Gary Rowing Parker - Elected unanimously as Chair for 2023 – 24 season.

5.2. Treasurer

- GS proposes Pete Varian as Treasurer
- Seconded by Mick Davies

5.3. Secretary

- No Secretary elected

5.4. Auditor

- Pete Varian proposed Gordon Siers
- Seconded by Mick Davies

6. Proposals

6.1. HJ tabled proposals for a change to Rule 15 following his experience of organising the aborted Regional Championships. The existing rule 15 and proposed amended rules are set out in Appendix III.

6.2. A vote was held and the changes to Rule 15 were passed unanimously.

6.3. Action – WMCCL Committee: Amend the publicly displayed rules on the WMCCL website to reflect this change.

7. 2023/24 Season Dates

7.1. Provisional events – nothing agreed at this stage.

- 3/9/2023 – Abbey Stadium Redditch Road & Path
- MSW 10/9

- Solihull 24/9
 - Dynamic Rides 1/10
 - CX National Trophy – South Shields
 - WSJ 15/10
 - Stratford CC 22/10 - Venue to be confirmed.
 - Malvern CC - 5/11
 - Newport SCC - 12/11
 - Pulse Events 19/11
 - Wolverhampton 3/12
- 7.2. 3 events TBC
- Walsall Arboretum – Pete Varian targeting 26/11
 - HACC – Baggeridge date to be confirmed.
 - RLSCC – venue TBC
- 7.3. GRP call for events after the 3/12.
- **Action – GS to speak to Gator events**

8. AOB

- 8.1. Pete Mooney – Queried the implications the BC decision have on trans athletes?
- BC policy will be fully implemented from 1 January 2024. General agreement that this is a sensible and fair interpretation of the policy.
 - Until then BC rules state that categories on current licences should be respected until they are renewed.
 - Categories for 2023/24 season will be Open & Women.
 - **Action – WMCCCL Committee: Ask for clarification from BC on the policy toward younger riders**
- 8.2. Mick Ives – CX grew through 60s & 70s to become large public gatherings in 1980s on TV and with large crowds. Lack of publicity and lack of promotion is stifling the growth of the sport even at national level. West Midlands could do more to promote the League.
- HJ – Before its cancellation, efforts had been made to promote the 2022 Regional Championships through local media via a press release written as a favour by Ben Goddard.
 - DM suggested that it may be worth approaching Ben or another interested journalist and spending some of the League funds to pay for pre and post event write ups as had been done in previous seasons.

9. Appendix I – League Chair report

WMCCCL Chairman's Report – 2023 AGM

We ran 12 events in 2022. It should have been 13 (matching 2021), but we had to cancel the Regional Championships.

Despite having one-fewer events, total participation (individual rides) was up 6% on 2021. Within that: Male participation was up 4% and Female 16%. The latter is particularly pleasing as that it one of our objectives.

However, we saw reduced numbers in the Youth and Junior categories – particularly among Female riders. That's something we'd like to address, and we would welcome any ideas members have on that.

During 2022, we made the switch for race entries from the BC website to RiderHQ. That had advantages for the administration of races, and our instinct is to continue with RiderHQ, but we'd welcome your feedback.

During 2022, we also introduced the CX Hubz app as an additional channel of communication with members. The feedback has been very positive. It enables us to deliver news more directly and more quickly.

The 2023-24 season is shaping up well. We already have 10 events pencilled in with 3 more very likely, but we'd still like to hear proposals for further events – especially towards the end of the season.

There will be some changes on the Committee this year. Some standing down from the Committee or from roles within the Committee. I'd like to thank Gordon for his tremendous support over many years as Treasurer, and Hugh for acting as Secretary during a very difficult period. We have a nomination for Treasurer, but we do not yet have a new Secretary.

There is room on the Committee for more people. We'd particularly welcome more women and younger people. If anyone wants to know more about that, please speak to me afterwards. It does not have to be decided today.

Month	Date	#	Club(s)	Venue	Organiser(s)	Competing Event
September	3		Redditch/Warwick	Abbey Stadium	Robin Baker	
	10		MSW	Shrewsbury	Dave Mellor	
	17					
October	24		Solihull CC	Heart of England	Gary Rowing-Parker	?Three Peaks CX TBC
	1		Dynamic Rides CC	Heart of England	Steve Broatch	
	8					National Trophy R1: South Shields
	15		Worcester St John	Lakeside Campus	Clinton Haywood	National Trophy R2: NW TBA
	22		Stratford CC	TBA	Steve Groves	
November	29					National Trophy R3: Derby
	5		Malvern Cycle Sport	Cob House	Rob Burns	
	12		Newport Shropshire	Lilleshall	Simon Jackson	National Trophy R4: Paignton
	19		Pulse Pursuits	Lakeside Campus	Mark Leyland	
December	26					
	3		Wolverhampton Whs	Aldersley Stadium	Phil Metcalfe	Regional Championships
	10					National Trophy R5: Gravesend
	17					
	26					Boxing Day CX Kenilworth
January	31					
	1					
	7					National Trophy R6: Bradford
	14					National Championships: Falkirk

11. Appendix III

11.1. Existing rule 15

- 80% of the seasons rounds will count for a rider's final league placing (including average points awarded for helping at events and riding the regional Championships). For clarity, if there are 10 rounds in the season then 8 results will count and then, 8 results if 11 rounds. 10 results if 12 rounds. 10 results if 13 rounds. 11 results if 14 rounds. 12 results if 15 rounds.

11.2. Proposed rule(s)

- ***The highest scores of each rider from 80% of the ~~seasons~~ rounds in that season will count for a rider's final league placing (including average points awarded at the discretion of the Committee for helping at events in lieu of racing, and riding the regional Championships). For clarity, if there are 10 rounds in the season then 8 results will count and then: 9 results if 11 rounds; 10 results if 12 rounds; 10 results if 13 rounds; 11 results if 14 rounds, and 12 results if 15 rounds.***
- ***The West Midlands Regional Championships will be open to eligible riders who hold a valid and correct level of British Cycling Membership in the West Midlands Region in accordance with British Cycling Regulations.ⁱ Where Regional Championships are organised under the auspices of the WMCCL they will contribute to the number of scoring rounds for each rider in that season.***
- ***Riders who compete in the West Midlands regional championships or can provide the committee with evidence of having ridden in other British Cycling regions/home countries championships where they are eligible to race, or who volunteer and help at the West Midlands Regional Championships for that season in lieu of racing, will be awarded their average points at the discretion of the committee.ⁱⁱ***

1.5. _____

ⁱ The Regional Championships is anomalous and should be treated differently to a standard league event. Entrants require the correct and valid British Cycling Membership in the West Midlands to compete in Regional Championships. This is the default position of British Cycling Cyclocross Commission and British Cycling regulations. The reality is that the rule appears to be honoured as much in the breach as in the obedience. It is arguable riders from out-of-area who are ineligible to compete for a championship should not be included in a race where they could affect the outcome of that race. The proposed rule change would:

- clarify the entry criteria is not the same as a league event from the outset;
- encourage entry to more rounds of the League.

ⁱⁱ Offering average points still incentivises participation in the Regional Championships of our and/or other regions with average points substituting the points scored in riders' lowest counting round rather than adding to an overall total.