

# WMCCCL Annual General Meeting - Minutes

Held at 13:30 on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at Mappleborough Green Primary School

## Attendees

Present	Club
Gary Rowing-Parker – Chair	Solihull CC
Pete Varian - Treasurer	BMC
Judith Harper - Secretary	Solihull CC
Paul Berry	RRPCC
John Potts	RRPCC
Sally Potts	RRPCC
Nick Popham	Team Enable
Dave Mellor	MSW
Paul Sobczyk	Worcester St Johns CCC
Clinton Haywood	Worcester St Johns CCC
Adam Parker	Solihull CC
Genny Billington	BOCC
Stewart Phipps	BOCC
Mike Cook	Bromsgrove
Pete Mooney	Rugby Velo
James Webster	Stratford CC
Steve Groves	Stratford CC
Phil Glaze	Stourbridge CC
Phil Metcalf	Wolverhampton Wheelers

## 1. Apologies

Simon Jackson – Newport Shropshire CC

Nicholas Etienne – Solihull CC

Adam Parker – Solihull CC

Matthew Harris – Halesowen ACC

Mark Leyland -

Gordon Siers – Former Treasurer

## 2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the AGM held Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at The Ark, Alvechurch, were accepted as a correct record.

Item 8 – previous action to clarify trans policy towards younger riders. BC has adopted a policy of Open and Women's' events. There does not appear to be a policy yet for youth riders. - this is for BC to determine.

### 3. Chair's Report (GRP)

The Chair noted the sad loss of Steve Knight, Mick Ives and Bridget Jones who were all well known to the league. WMCCL will introduce an annual trophy for the V60 M category, to be competed for at a specified (TBC) league round in memory of Mick Ives and Steve Knight.

Membership levels in 2023-4 season were not quite back to pre-covid levels but significantly improved over the previous year. The effects of National Trophy clashes were noted but these were less significant than expected. Lowest attendance was at the Regional Championships, which was a disappointing turnout. There was a big drop off in the numbers of U23 participants, especially women; we would like to find ways to counteract this.

David Mellor thanked the committee for a success awards event. It is proposed to use the same venue again as it was considered worthwhile even though costs were subsidised by the League.

The number of events is currently less than last year. Would like to increase both the number, geographical spread and length of the season.

#### **Committee Changes:**

Martin Eadon, Isla Rowntree, Mick Davies and Michelle Paget are standing down.

New volunteers to be elected: Paul Sobczyk, Adam Parker, David Payne, Yvonne Marshall.

### 4. Treasurer's Report (PV)

See the accounts presented in **Appendix I**

The league recorded a surplus of £177.

Exceptions:

- 2 years' worth of One-Bike trophies are shown for 2023-4 as payment for the previous year arrived late.
- Settlement of the 50% of the compensation payment by Malvern CC (£1200) due to venue damage.
- Replacement numbers and transponders
- Bursaries - £3,000. Some of this was covered by sponsorship from Kalas, Madison and Solihull CC.

Race fees cover everything else. Note that some prizes were not claimed.

P Mooney asked about plans to use the £18,000 in the bank.

- We need to buy and maintain equipment. We propose to maintain the fees but reduce the cash in bank figure. Strategic reserves are required to cover the costs of the league if there was no external income. Work on this is ongoing. PM proposed that membership for 2023 season is extended to cover the 2024 season.

P Metcalfe asked if the timing service was a competitive cost.

- The current provider is a good deal. The service is tendered for.
- Following a discussion regarding active and passive timing systems the committee agreed to look at other options
- **ACTION** – WMCCL Chair to explore alternative timing systems and providers

## 5. Elections

The current Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are prepared to continue.

**Proposed:** Pete Mooney; **Seconded:** Mike Cooper

New representatives standing for committee: Adam Parker, Paul Sobczyk, Yvonne Marshall, David Payne.

**Proposed:** Genny Billington **Seconded:** Sally Potts

All accepted and approved by the AGM.

## 6. Proposals 2024

NB THE PROPOSER MUST BE PRESENT IN PERSON. ONLY 2 PERSONS PER CLUB MAY VOTE.

For those proposals where the original proposer was not present alternative persons in attendance were invited to propose and second the proposal.

Due to some clubs having more than 2 members present the threshold for passing on a 2/3<sup>rd</sup>s basis was 11 votes. Voting results are attached in **Appendix II**.

The Constitution and rules are available on the website at [WMCCCL rules](#)

### (i) Changes to the WMCCCL Constitution – Clause 5(e) All General Meetings

The Constitution is inconsistent on voting rules. In several places, it is mandated that a two thirds majority is required to change League Rules or the Constitution. But Item 5e states:

“Except as otherwise provided in these Rules, every resolution shall be decided by a simple majority of the votes cast on as show of hands.”

This is confusing, and we need a consistent rule. Therefore, it is proposed that Item 5e is removed and that a two-thirds majority applies to all resolutions, constitutional and rule changes.

**Discussion:** Constitution and rules currently require 2/3 majority; all other changes need a simple majority.

But the rules are stated within the Constitution.

Thus all proposals require a 2/3 majority EXCEPT no.(x) re Women’s Race Times

**WITHDRAWN.**

### (ii) Changes to The WMCCCL Constitution - 4 (a) Membership

Remove the words "via the British Cycling on line portal" and change "age band" to "category", so that the sentence reads:

"Racing membership of the WMCCCL will be on a first come, first served basis ~~via the British Cycling online portal~~ until the quota per ~~age band~~ category is complete or until the closing date set annually by the committee is reached."

**Proposed:** Gary Rowing-Parker. **Seconded:** Judith Harper

**Discussion:** This allows the League to choose an alternative online platform for membership, which it has, in fact, already been doing.

**APPROVED**

- (iii) Changes to The WMCCL Constitution - 8 The Committee (D Committee meetings)

To correct clause numbering errors. Also, remove the clause that says:  
"b. Committee meetings shall be held face to face;"  
Committee meetings are now routinely held as video calls, which suits committee members and saves unnecessary travel and expenses.

**Proposed:** Gary Rowing-Parker. **Seconded:** Peter Varian

**APPROVED**

- (iv) Changes to The WMCCL Rules – Rule 2

Change this rule from:  
"Riders must register for the League before the start of each season to gain League points."  
To read:  
"Riders must register (become Racing Members) of the League in order to gain League points. The Committee will decide the deadline for registration each season. However, league points will not be awarded retrospectively, i.e. for events raced before the league is joined"

**Proposed:** Gary Rowing-Parker. **Seconded:** Paul Sobczyk

**Discussion:** This change would allow the Committee flexibility to leave membership open beyond the start of the season if it so wishes. This is being investigated. Thus far, it has been deemed impractical, but there is a demand for it, and we do not want to rule it out if it can be made to work.

Timing of opening the league registration was also discussed.

**APPROVED**

- (v) Changes to The WMCCL Rules - Rule 5.

Remove the words "British Cycling", so that it reads:  
"Non registered riders who have entered in advance via the online ~~British Cycling~~ entry system will be given a timing transponder and race number on the day which must be returned at the end of their race."

**Proposed:** Gary Rowing-Parker. **Seconded:** Paul Sobczyk

**APPROVED**

- (vi) Changes to The WMCCL Rules - Rule 15

Proposal1 submitted  
To reduce the requirement for max 80% rounds to count towards points.

**Proposed:** Suzanne Brown. **Secunder Required.**

**Discussion:** Having to enter and complete 80% of the events is too high and a big commitment from any rider. If the League wants to encourage participation, particularly from under-represented groups (e. g women), a lower percentage is more likely to increase participation. The current 80% rule is not flexible enough to allow riders to miss races due to family commitments, illness, 'life events' etc. To give you my personal example, I was unable to attend two races last season due to a wedding and family event. It then meant I couldn't afford to miss any of the remaining 10 races if I wanted to qualify for a League position.

Proposal2 submitted

Clarify the rule for League points qualification?

Proposed: Suzanne Brown. Seconder Required.

**Discussion:** My understanding is that any rider has to complete 80% of the rounds in order to qualify for a League position.

However, when last season's results were announced, there were many riders who received prize money and awarded a top 3 league position, yet had not raced 80% of the rounds. This was particularly prevalent in the Women's category

Proposal3 - Amended from 1&2 and voted on

Change rule 15 from:

"The highest scores of each rider from 80% of the 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). 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."

To read:

The highest scores of each rider from 75% (rounded down) of the 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).

This is a maximum number of rounds that can be counted. If a rider does not complete that number of rounds, then the total number of points they have accumulated will still count toward the final league standings.

For clarity, if there are:

- 10 rounds in the season: up to 7 results will count;
- 11 rounds in the season: up to 8 results will count;
- 12 rounds in the season: up to 9 results will count;
- 13 rounds in the season: up to 9 results will count;
- 14 rounds in the season: up to 10 results will count;

This is intended to make the League more competitive - shifting the balance a little more in favour of stronger riders who are not able to attend all events whilst continuing to reward consistent riders.

**Proposed:** Gary Rowing-Parker. **Seconded:** Paul Sobczyk

**Discussion:** Some organisers have expressed concerns that a lower figure puts later rounds at risk of lower attendance, particularly when there is bad weather.

The proposal was also aimed at those missing rounds due to competing in National Trophy competitions.

There were concerns that having average points for riders attending a Regional Championships in another region is a disincentive to attend, but opening WMCCCL to riders from other regions is a benefit.

**REJECTED**

(vii) Changes to The WMCCCL Rules – Proposed new rule: Prize Money

Cash prizes shall be awarded at all league events: One prize for every complete five entrants in all category groups; where there are less than five entries groups can be combined. No prize to be less than the entry fee.

**Proposed:** Peter Mooney. **Seconded:** Nick Popham.

**Discussion:** A significant number of vets are concerned that they are subsidising racing but not getting much reward, and are thus looking to British Masters events to provide an alternative. This has been a concern since prior to Covid. People are struggling with the cost of entry fees. Modelling of the costs has demonstrated that an event can be run with this system generating enough cash to cover costs and parking.

- The League collects £2 per rider which goes into the prize pot from every race.
- A significant number of riders race for the competition not for money. The podium is more important.
- Could we get a local sponsor – Yes
- Five other leagues cost less than WMCCCL
- 95% of riders don't win and are subsidising the rest.
- Some venues have made a loss in the past. This proposal would jeopardise a lot of venues.
- WMCCCL moved away from this prize system as it is neither a UCI or regional event but is about participation, particularly 2<sup>nd</sup> level riders. Prizes are paid via bank transfer not cash and can take a couple of months to get riders' bank details.

**REJECTED**

(viii) Changes to The WMCCL Rules - One Bike 'Cross

Clarify the rules in order to preserve the 'self-help' ethos of the category whilst allowing reasonable bike maintenance to be carried out by a rider during a race. The wording to be changed from:

1. Ride one bike for the duration of the race.
2. No washing of the bike during the race.
3. No technical assistance for the duration of the race.

To read:

This is a season-long competition for those who commit to use a single bike for the duration of each race. No prizes shall be awarded for individual races, but at the WMCCL Annual Awards there will be a separate podium for the top three 'One Bike' riders in each category. This competition does not apply to the various Under-12 categories. The rules are:

1. Use only one bike in each WMCCL race for the entire WMCCL season and wear the arm band.
2. If a second bike is used in a race, then the rider is no longer eligible for this competition.
3. Only the rider is allowed to repair or clean their bike during a race, but no jet washing allowed.
4. The rider may enter the pits to carry out repairs or clean their bike.
5. Wheels may be changed in the pits but only on the bike that the race was started on.
6. No-one else can assist the rider in any of the above during the race.

It is not felt unreasonable for a 'One Bike' rider to finish a race that they might not otherwise have done because of a repairable fault such as a puncture. They will lose time carrying out the repair anyway, but they should have opportunity to make the decision as to whether to finish the race or not.

**Proposed:** Gary Rowing-Parker.      **Seconded:** Judith Harper

**Discussion:** Isla's motivation was about the environment and costs to participants – so no jet washing involved.

It is difficult to police and relies upon riders' honesty. Arm bands should be worn to identify participants.

**ACCEPTED**

(ix) General Practices and Procedures – New Proposal : Arm Numbers

That the league provides a single arm number [to riders] to aid manual recognition of lap counts and also help with the chip timing visual check.

**Proposed:** Pete Varian      **Seconded:** Paul Sobczyk

**Discussion:** This has been asked for by the regional commissaires after muddy events made back numbers unreadable.

Costs of new numbers would be c. £700. The incidence of errors is very low.

**REJECTED**

- (x) General Practices and Procedures - Women's Race Time  
Move the Women's race [to take place] before the Vet 50 Men's race. Particularly late in the season when the ground conditions become more difficult (e.g. muddy/ wet), having the Women's race earlier means the ground would be less churned up. Many female riders are relatively inexperienced and/or new to CX, so having to ride 'churned up' courses last season after the Vet 50 Men's race was extremely challenging (Lilleshall in particular is a good example).

**Proposed:** Pete Mooney. **Seconder** Paul Sobczyk.

**Discussion:** Given that there are 100+ riders in the Vet 50 men's race and circa 30 in the Women's race, the low number of women racers means the ground conditions will be less challenging for female riders and still remain favourable for the Vet 50 Men's race. Changing the time could also potentially increase the number of women riders.

By comparison, the Leicester League runs the Women's race at 11.55am (an hour before the Vet 50 men). Having raced a number of their races in 2023, it was noticeable how different the ground conditions were when racing before the men. The number of women riders in the Leicester League is closer to 50.

The numbers in the practice session would be too many

**REJECTED**

- (xi) General Practices and Procedures - Car Parking Charges  
Scrap car parking charges where they are not imposed by the venue.

**Proposed:** Nick Popham. **Seconder** Pete Mooney

**Discussion:** WMCCL is the only league to have car parking charges at some venues. Aside from the additional race cost, the car parking charges usually have to be paid in cash. These days, most people don't carry cash - it is becoming an obsolete payment method - so having to remember to take out cash and have the correct change is an unnecessary headache.

Could the charges be added to the entry fee? – This would be a cost to every rider then not each vehicle.

The parking charge is usually paid direct to the venue in cash.

**REJECTED**

- (xii) General Practices and Procedures - Senior/Grand vets combined with the Ladies race

**Proposer:** Mike Cooper

**Discussion:** This would free up the large field in the Vets race. This will mean that older vets may not be lapped so many times and adding to our enjoyment. It may also encourage other older riders to join in racing.

A separate women's race was introduced by GRP. WMCCL was (we think) the first league to do this. It would be a retrograde step to go back.

The numbers of women racing have increased as a result. Some women had felt intimidated racing with (usually faster) men.

The spirit and atmosphere of the women's race is very congenial.

Women are often attending with the family so would not go early anyway.

Parking may be a greater problem due to earlier arrivals.

**REJECTED**

- (xiii) All memberships of the 2023 season to be carried over for 2024 season  
**Proposed:** Pete Mooney    **Seconded:** Nick Popham  
**Discussion:** the league has considerable funds in the bank from which the members are receiving no benefit.  
Committee is prepared to reduce the entry fees. The numbers riding this year may be different.  
Could we have a discount for those who were 2023 members? – Difficult to manage and discriminates.  
There should be opportunity to consider, and vote on, alternative uses of funds than membership.  
**REJECTED**

## 7. AOB

- i. In respect of younger riders could we partner with the BSCA (British Schools Cycling Association)?
- The BSCA rules and age categories are different
  - BSCA does not do cyclocross

The committee agreed to discuss ways to manage this such as publicity in schools and further novice events before race day. Genny Billington was co-opted onto the committee to assist with working on this

Venues – Ullenhall is not being used this year so far. It would be available for another club to promote an event?. Could it be a back-up venue?

Noted that Ullenhall is not practical to use in wet weather due to the significant slope so would need to be an early season venue.

### Actions

- (i) WMCCCL Chair to explore alternative timing systems and providers
- (ii) WMCCCL committee to ensure Constitution and Rules are updated and placed on Website.

The minutes were approved by

**Chairman**      Gary Rowing Parker      \_\_\_\_\_

**Secretary**      Judith Harper      \_\_\_\_\_

Date      \_\_\_\_\_

**APPENDIX I – Accounts for 2023/24**

**West Midlands Cyclo Cross League Balance Sheet 2023/24**

Income –	Starting Balance (16/05/23)	£17729.10
	Sponsorship	£ 3000.00
	B C Levies	£10151.50
	Timing	£ 9668.00
	League Registration	£ 5469.34
	Prize Fund	£ 6906.00
	One Bike Sponsorship (2 years)	£ 984.88
	Prize Presentation	£ 1506.03
	Commissaires Fees	£ 40.00
	Event Registration Fees	£ 120.00
	Total	£ 55566.28

Expenditure –	BC Levies	£10151.50
	Timing	£ 8752.50
	Prizes	£ 6446.00
	Event Registration Fee	£ 120.00
	Donation ( Steve Knight)	£ 100.00
	Commissaire Training	£ 150.00
	Malvern Settlement	£ 635.00
	Travel	£ 278.70
	Ancillaries	£ 262.80
	Medals & Trophys	£ 2312.54
	Commissaire Fees	£ 200.00
	Storage	£ 730.00
	Replacement Numbers	£ 125.22
	Bursaries	£ 3500.00
	Prize Presentation	£ 3894.95
	Total	£ 37659.21

Closing Balance (01/04/24) £ 17907.07

*Accounts audited and  
found to be correct  
J G Siers  
Auditor  
17/4/2024.*

**APPENDIX II – Voting results**

	<b>Item</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Result</b>	<b>Comment</b>
i	5 Withdrawn				
ii	4a	15	0	Passed	
iii	8	16	0	Passed	
iv	Rule 2	16	0	Passed	no points to be awarded retrospectively
v	Rule 5	16	0	Passed	
vi	Rule 15	10	7	Rejected	2/3 majority not reached
vii	Prize money	2	12	Rejected	
viii	One bike cross	All	None	Passed	
ix	Arm numbers	3	10	Rejected	
x	Women's race	3	10	Rejected	
xi	Car parking charges	3	Majority	Rejected	
xii	Vets/Super vets combined with ladies' race	0	All	Rejected	
xiii	All membership to be carried over	5	10	Rejected	