

WMCCL Committee Meeting Minutes

Held online at 19:30 on Monday 8th April 2024

Attendees

Present	Apologies
Gary Rowing-Parker – Chair	Paul Berry
Pete Varian - Treasurer	Sally Potts
Judith Harper - Secretary	Mark Leyland
Mick Davies	Dave Mellor
John Potts	
Dave Payne	Observers:
	Paul Sobczyk
	Adam Parker

1. Previous Minutes - Matters Arising & Actions

- i. **British Cycling** – re Cat A events. MD queried with Mark Nulty at British Cycling by email, and gained the impression that even if we put forward locations for Cat A status, BC would make the decision ultimately. GRP also contacted Mark Nulty about another matter and raised this too, but has not had a response.
- ii. **First aid** – JP has 4 potential suppliers:
 - o County Medic Services
 - o Cotswold First Aid
 - o Event Medicare - Keiran Watson
 - o MJB Support ServicesKey criteria are commitment, mobility (e.g. off-road bike or similar), at least 2 persons, preferably a gazebo. To be invited to submit proposals by 10th June. **ACTION JP**
- iii. **Attingham Park** - deferred until DM available to report.
- iv. **Podium working group** – deferred as no reps in attendance. MD is not prepared to commit to something he cannot deliver. The aim is to try to provide this for at least Youth riders in addition to U12s.
- v. **One Bike Competition sponsor** –Echelon Cycles confirmed.

2. Chair's Report (GRP)

Next season – 9 events confirmed subject to date fixing meeting. Still looking for 2-3 more events late season. Agreed that events post-Christmas would be a 'nice to have' but cannot get the organisers to do these.

PV still working on Beacon CC/Stourbridge joint event; Rob Burns would like to offer 24th November but needs more volunteers. NB this is date for regional Championships so would have additional requirements e.g. UCI commissaires.

Team Enable is proposing a Steve Knight Memorial race for V60M at one of the Heart of England events, which Team Enable would sponsor.

GRP thanked everyone for responding to the role-filling request.

3. Treasurer's Report (PV)

Reserves position - Most expenditure is covered by the event income, @ £27,220. Costs over and above this are such as equipment; starting and closing balance is generally <£200. The position is effectively 'break even'.

The league receives £3000 in donations (Kalas, Lazer/Shimano, Solihull CC) so we need to be prepared in case this ceases.

Current status - The books for 2023-24 were closed at the end of March. Some equipment is required (stakes) but this will come out of next year's funds. One more prize was paid out after the deadline.

£6436 was paid in prize money but £470 was not claimed so will stay in the account.

Storage rent – ML has requested that the league invoice him annually @£720 for 1st April to 31st March, rather than quarterly. The equipment storage is an outbuilding at a farm near Bromsgrove. Some concern was expressed over whether we could get a refund if we changed location part way through the year; also that storage is effectively used for ¾ year since kit is being moved around during the CX season. Agreed that it is good value. The Committee agreed to pay for a whole year.

4. AGM

Arrangements and attendance – Location and date fixed as Mappleborough Green Primary School, Henley Road, Studley, Warwickshire B80 7DR on Saturday 27th April starting at 2pm. Venue available from 1pm. Email sent to all members. JP offered to provide Tea and biscuits – expenses will be covered. **JP to speak to PB ACTION**

Proposals were discussed (as per attached).

Re Rule 2 (League registration) PS considered that young riders and their parents, usually new to CX racing, find it hard to understand. PV suggested a 'how to ...' guide on the CX hub, but it was noted that 'newbies' wouldn't even know about the CX hub. Suggested that there should be a link on the WMCCCL website. Also we should look at possibilities of using QR codes.

PS volunteered to review the rules for consistency and clarity and to simplify things. Voting rules are confusing. NB only 2 representative per club can vote.

PS also to talk to DP about ways to increase participation via the website. **ACTION**

Re no. of counting rounds – debated. The issue was to have enough counting rounds to motivate riders, versus penalising those who attend other races, e.g. National Trophy, or cannot attend due to personal reasons. Also whether those with 'enough' points would drop off towards the end of the season. The aim is to encourage competition and participation.

Prize money – debated. The rule was changed some years ago to make life easier. MD noted by email that it was unrealistic given the increased costs that organisers now face.

Some simple figures: Currently all entries for youth and above contribute £2 to the League prize fund. So for every 5 riders, a £10 levy is taken from organisers and added to the fund. What Pete proposes is that for all riders aged 18+, for every 5 riders a minimum of £17 is given by organisers as prizes. So a minimum 70% increase in money going to prizes. That's assuming every prize winner is only given their entry fee as a prize, a more normal increasing scale of prizes would quickly see that increase to 100% or more. W may find we have a

reduced number of events, because organisers can't make an amount of money for their club or break even. Also, what is the entry fee? How long before a non-league, non-BC member who enters on the day asks for £28?

It was considered unfair to those who volunteer and contribute to the costs but get nothing.

Noted that quite a few people don't claim their prize money; people race for the enjoyment not for cash prizes, particularly as this is a league not an open event.

Re Arm bands – noted that manual recording sheets are still used for checking and finalising results.

ACTION PV to investigate costs of armbands, including ones with elastic.

Re change of times – was debated and agreed that we would withdraw the proposal and to try other ways to make things the times work, particularly as people are affected by the longer day overall.

5. AOB

Gridding – AP and GRP had discussed how you manage gridding at beginning of the year. i.e. for people moving up a category. It is only relevant in early season races. Previously, MD has used average points from previous year then 'discounted' for those moving up when below Senior category; for those above senior category – all vets – it works in the opposite direction. If you enter on the day, you get gridded at the back.

6. Future Meeting dates

TBC

7. Any Other Business

- (i) Proposals for AGM - need to be submitted formally with proposer and seconder. Our proposals to include: **ACTION GRP**
- Arm numbers as rear numbers are difficult to read when muddy.
 - Earlier start time for Go ride races

8. Next meeting -

AGM – date TBC April/May

Actions Carried Forward

- ~~(i) **British Cycling CX meeting** – re Cat A events. GRP to circulate BC response. Consider engaging other leagues.~~
- ~~(ii) **First aid** – JP to make initial contacts~~
- ~~(iii) **AGM** – Proposal for Arm numbers to be drafted with proposer and seconder **ACTION GRP**~~
- ~~(iv) **Reserves** – PV to identify the running costs of the league.~~
- ~~(v) **Podium Working Group** – meetings to be arranged **PB**~~
- ~~(vi) **Attingham Park** – DM to contact NT re WMCCL rep to join working group for CX course development~~
- ~~(vii) **Prize money** – GRP to write down rules for future reference.~~
- ~~(viii) **One Bike Competition sponsor** – GRP to contact Echelon Cycles~~