

WMCCCL Committee Meeting Minutes DRAFT

Held online at 19:30 on Monday 9th December 2024

Attendees

Present	Apologies
Gary Rowing-Parker – Chair	Genny Billington
Judith Harper - Secretary	Dave Mellor
Pete Varian - Treasurer	Mark Leyland
Paul Berry	
John Potts	
Adam Parker	
Paul Sobczyk	
Yvonne Marshall	
David Payne	

1. Actions from previous meeting & Matters Arising

- i. **Medical support** – First aid was present at the Sandwell event 1st December.
- ii. **DM** to chase Madison refunds/sponsorship of bursaries/prizes. **Carried forward**
- iii. **PV** requested to identify budget to show committed funds, plus reserves and estimated cash after all expenses. **Done**
- iv. **GRP** to order one set of paper arm numbers and use if/when needed. **Done** Not used at Sandwell despite the conditions, as 'Run & Ride' timing system was used.

2. Chair's Report (GRP)

- Good season. Weather issues have been a feature. We can learn lessons re the cancellations. Procedures are needed. Cancellation of Round 12 went better than for round 10; cancellation on the day is not best. NB some people were already in transit to Top Barn due to travel times. Photos of standing water at Walsall Arboretum have been posted demonstrating why it was necessary to cancel. There was lots of discussion around points allocation, which needs to be considered in future.
- Feedback re the new venue at the Country Park has been positive. Sandwell Council were positive and keen for other park-based venues to be used. Walsall Arboretum was always considered temporary; Aldridge Airport is a potential alternative.

3. Treasurers report (PV)

Current balance is **£31,004.67**. A payment from Run & Ride still to come; a printer cartridge to be purchased.

If we subtract the figures from the current balance for last season's prizes & levies (which were £6,446.00 (prizes) & £10,151.50 (levies)) plus £100 outstanding treasurer's expenses, we are left with £14,307.17 working capital. The levy payment from Boxing Day is still to come and there

are prospective liabilities of £300.00 for the bursary payments; also this does not take into account any payment from Maddison.
 There are also no liabilities to the league expected from the cancelled event at Walsall.
 Invoice awaited for timing at Regional championships from Mick Davies (£600-ish) & no levies or prize monies due from Rob Burns.

	liabilities	Income	BALANCE
Current Balance			£31,004.67
Less last season prizes	£6446.00		
Less last season levies	£10151.50		
Treasurer's expenses	£100.00		£14307.17
Boxing Day CX levies ?	?		
Outstanding bursary payments	£300		
Timing charge – Round 10	~£600		£8021.50
Payment from Round 11 662@£2		£1324	£9345
Potential Payment from Madison ?		£3000	

Lakeside potentially have a minimum charge for carparking; they expect c. £1000 but if rider numbers are down then so is their income; this cost may be passed on to the league. For future events we need to get the policy with respect to cancellation written down and agreed. It is understood that Lakeside have to pay the carpark attendants.

Confirmation of event dates should be brought forward to allow time for negotiations.

4. Prize Fund

Last Year £6,957 was available but some winners did not claim the prize money. This year the prize fund is @£6,000. Entries this year are down slightly on last year. GRP will validate the figures, allocate prize values then circulate to committee for agreement.

It was noted that in some categories a rider may only do 2 races but receive the same prize money. GRP responded that there is a threshold, and we would only pay 1st prize if the no. of riders is below this. If 5% of rides is <1 then there are no prizes.

5. Date/Venue for Awards

Last year the date clashed with February Half-term, which meant that some people couldn't attend due to holidays. We need also to avoid clashes with the CX world championships, start of road/circuit racing, MTB XC racing and Easter (20th April).

In 2025 half term is w/c 17th February. Agreed to look for availability on 2nd March with 9th February as contingency. Must be >200 people.

GRP would like to use the same venue as last year, subject to costs. Was c. £3,800 including food but with ticket income, net to league was £2.5k. PS liked the venue but is happy to investigate alternatives. JIH suggested the Village Hotel at junction 10 might be a central option.

ACTION: GRP to provide contacts to JP to investigate availability. JIH to investigate Village Hotel.

6. AGM

Proposed that the venue is the same as last year, i.e. Mappleborough Green School, a Saturday afternoon. Dates should avoid Easter (Sunday 20th April). Preferred is 29th March.

ACTION PB to investigate availability.

7. Numbers and Transponders

Mick Davies would like the Numbers and Transponders back soon. There is an option to bring them to the Awards presentation and AGM, but is a bit late. PV collected some at Sandwell Valley. Can also do so at the Boxing Day Cross. Pete Mooney had offered to collect at LCXL events post Christmas. GRP has also collected some, PS has some. Agreed that we should ask clubs to co-ordinate collection. PV happy to co-ordinate collection., including having address published. Should request that they are cleaned before return. **ACTION DONE**

8. Commissaire Feedback

A formal complaint, and informal grumblings, had been received about lapped riders being pulled out at the Women's race. There are no rules on this regarding regional events, but WMCCL do not use the 80% rule. The decision was taken by the commissaires due to timing.

It was agreed that there were particular time pressures on the women's race due to its position in the running order. But also there were commissaires with old fashioned views. Lap length is critical.

At Sandwell there was also an issue with lap length; it was shortened on the pre-race walkaround and the course modified but there was also resistance to this.

Agreed that there should be flexibility in the race layout, and contingency provision. Course layout should be a two-way thing between commissaires and event organisers. The women need to feel that they have been listened to; could we change the schedule for the ladies' race? It would need to ensure that this did not create problems elsewhere.

GRP asked for a proposal to put to the AGM. He will also provide feedback to David Feiven as Head commissaire. Noted that in Belgium max course length is 2.5-3km.

Agreed that we should require from organisers a course map showing sections that can be removed in the event that conditions deteriorate.

9. AOB

- (i) **Cancellation Policy** – the league is holding funds from the cancelled events. Do we offer refunds?

Refunds can be provided 'en masse' via RiderHQ but funds have already been transferred, less VAT, to the WMCCL account. **ACTION PV** to speak to RiderHQ to clarify

- how to do the refunds. As there was no first aid, no catering and no toilets there should be no liabilities for these. PV to confirm with Beacon and Stourbridge CC **ACTION**. It was not clear if anyone had asked for a refund of the parking charge at Lakeside.
- (ii) **New Venues** – PV will look at Aldridge Airfield. Also there is a redundant golf course nearby. The Tanworth in Arden location is likely to be available to a club but too far for e.g. Lichfield CCC. Sandwell Council is very keen to explore the use of other potential venues – lots of options. Potential to use the Evesham circuit is being investigated. ML went to visit Solihull Equestrian Centre; feedback awaited. NB New venues must have resilience for bad weather.
 - (iii) **Inter-regional Championships** – the competitors enjoyed it. UCI events on the Sunday were cancelled. Report awaited.
 - (iv) **First Aid Cover next year** – no negative feedback although they were not as pro-active as RAMS. There were no significant incidents against which to evaluate them, just cuts and grazes plus a sprained ankle at Redditch for which response time was maybe slow. Proposed that we book them again as it is hard to find providers. Proposed also that we thank them and ask for an in-person meeting in order gain exchange feedback. **JP** to set up and invite **YM**. **ACTION**
 - (v) **Timing Next year** – Run & Ride is interested. To explore in the New Year. **ACTION GRP**

10. Future Meeting dates

Next Committee – Monday 13th January 2025

Actions Carried Forward

- (i) **Sponsorship of bursaries/prizes** - chase Madison refunds. **DM**
- (ii) **Award Presentation Event** - provide contacts to JP to investigate availability. **GRP**. **JIH** to investigate Village Hotel.
- (iii) **AGM** –investigate availability of Mappleborough School for 29th March. **PB**
- (iv) **Return of timing chips etc.** – PV to co-ordinate. **In progress**
- (v) **Race Layout** – organisers to be required to provide a course layout with resilience and flexibility in the event of bad conditions, including ability to remove sections/reduce length. **GRP**
- (vi) **Cancelled events** – speak to RiderHQ on how to do the refund, and confirm if any liabilities with organisers. **PV**
- (vii) **First Aid** - arrange a meeting with Kieron, to be supported by YM. **JP**