

# WMCCL Committee Meeting Minutes

Held online at 19:30 on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024

## Attendees

Present	Apologies
Gary Rowing-Parker – Chair	Mark Leyland
Pete Varian - Treasurer	
Judith Harper - Secretary	
Paul Berry (part only)	
John Potts	
Sally Potts	
Paul Sobczyk	
Adam Parker	
Genny Billington	

## 1. Previous Minutes - Matters Arising & Actions

- i. **AGM** – was successful.
- ii. **Participation** – PS was awaiting AGM for confirmation of rules, which can then go on the website along with material from last year. GRP has updated the constitution which can also be posted. Registration is proposed to go live by end of month.
- iii. **Race numbers** – use of arm bands was voted out at AGM. However, they would be required at the regional championships. PV will look at paper ones for this.

## 2. Chair's Report (GRP)

**Events programme** is progressing. We have 11 proposed, but a straight run of weekly events. There is a conflict between RLSCC and Halesowen CC which both want 22<sup>nd</sup> September. After discussion it was agreed that Halesowen should take priority as the longer running established event, and RLSCC were willing to accept a date that conflicts with National Trophy. (It was noted that National Trophy is reverting to the previous format before last year so main races and juniors will be on Sundays.)

JP commented about the front-loaded programme. This is because organisers all want to run early in the season due to deteriorating course conditions later on.

PV would like to know the date (from BC) of the Regional Championships ASAP. That would give more scope. It was noted that the Leics League tend to run later events without problems.

PS queried whether there would be one at Holt (Top Barn) and Walsall. GRP said that Stourbridge would help Malvern Cycle sport but wanted a gap in events. Potential clash with National trophy in Surrey; they need to plan ahead e.g. hire of toilets and cannot cancel at short notice.

DM is investigating Attingham Park near Shrewsbury as a venue. PV would like Walsall in the calendar as a provisional event.

PS noted that if we have provisional events then it would affect the number of counting events if not confirmed.

**Communications** - GRP reported that CX Hubz is ceasing to operate. It has been a very effective communication media but unfortunately could not secure sponsorship and cannot afford to run any

longer. WMCCL will need to rely more on other media, e.g. Facebook. GB suggested a social media hosting platform called 'Buffer, which is free. GRP will ask Dave Payne to investigate.

AP thought that we need a method where a message can be published simultaneously on FB/Instagram/X (formerly Twitter) etc. WhatsApp is not suitable as it becomes busy with 'traffic'. GRP would like a volunteer to research alternatives **ACTION ALL**

**AGM** – went well and there was a good discussion. PV noted that as the proposal for starting earlier was not passed we will need to ensure that the Go Ride Races are kept short and to time. **ACTION**

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

Balance £17,187.17. The only payment after the year end was c. £720 for storage, and £36 for printer ink. GRP has postage costs for trophies and prizes not collected. GRP/PV to discuss. **ACTION**

Future expenditure will include equipment: lap counter, bell and stakes by ML. Will also need to replace the ground stakes for the flags as they have been lost.

PV presented the proposal to change the bank account to one which accrues interest. This was agreed by the committee. It was agreed that:

The West Midlands Cyclo Cross League committee mandates Treasurer Peter Varian to investigate changing the current xxx non-interest-bearing account to an interest-bearing account within the same banking group.

### 4. League Membership

**Registration host** - Discussion over whether to use BC or continue with RiderHQ. PS would like to see club of entrants published as well as names, as it helps to encourage young members to participate where they do not know names. It may be that there are too many clubs to include in a drop-down menu.

**League registration cost** - At AGM there was a discussion re membership costs and funds in bank. Committee agreed to reduce the membership costs but not to zero as this could result in people registering with no commitment. At £5 per head, income from registration would be halved, which is affordable. A season ticket was not considered to be practical to administer. It was suggested that the costs could be reduced for children only with investment to go elsewhere in league. An immediate decision was not necessary so was deferred.

Race timing –GRP/PB have been exploring alternatives; whilst there are a number of providers, commitment to availability on a regular basis limits options. There are two types of system:

- Passive, as per D3 RaceTec which just records time of chip over the line
- Active where the chip sends live data on times (similar to the former Black Sheep timing). This is more stable and accurate but more expensive especially the chips. It would require chips to be issued and returned at each race. Video camera back-up would be provided, eliminating the need for lap scorers. Noted that chips should be collected at the finish rather than relying on competitors to return them.
- Park run type system is not considered suitable.

The league does already have a specification. We should ask for bids, to include D3RaceTec. No decision to be taken yet but GRP/PB to continue investigating. Can the WMCCL afford to buy the

chips? **ACTION** GRP to speak to Mick Davies and other suppliers. GRP has concerns about reliability of other suppliers. We should have a contingency. We should not be afraid of change.

## 5. First Aid

JP has sent out enquiries to one provider to get an idea of provisional costs, then will send a specification to all four potential suppliers, with lots of questions.

JP expects a substantial increase in cost compared with RAMS over the past couple of years, e.g. >£500 per event.

## 6. AOB

- JP noted that members are concerned about the league surplus funds in the bank. Could we support organisers more financially? Could we rotate the dates of events so that not all the same clubs get the 'popular dates'?
- PV noted that if we change the bank account to one which collects interest then we need a mandate from the committee, which is minuted and authorised. **ACTION PV/JIH**
- GB – re BSCA races. Would like to align with WMCCCL. They are doing track at Halesowen, but don't do CX. But age categories are different age groups - . She is talking to BC coaches and proposed pre-league training sessions. This was done last year, and was successful. GB to speak to Michelle Paget about repeating. PV happy to help. GB to speak to Ian Billington, President of BSCA. **ACTION GB**

## 7. Future Meeting dates

Next Committee – 24<sup>th</sup> June

Future dates:

24-Jun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree race timing and first aid contracts</li> <li>• Confirm race programme and entry fees</li> <li>• Confirm event equipment</li> <li>• Confirm league table system</li> </ul>
05-Aug	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree podium arrangements</li> <li>• Confirm gridding arrangements</li> <li>• Confirm race commissaires</li> </ul>
02-Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Double-check that everything is in place for the new season</li> </ul>

## Actions Carried Forward

- (i) Volunteer required to research alternative **communication** method to CXHubz
- (ii) GRP to work with organisers to ensure **Go Ride races** are managed so as not to affect timing of practice sessions.
- (iii) GRP/PV to discuss **expenses payments**.
- (iv) GRP to ask **Rider HQ to include information** on clubs of entrants
- (v) GRP to speak to Mick Davies and other suppliers about **race timing options**.
- (vi) **First aid** – JP to invite potential providers to submit proposals by 10<sup>th</sup> June.
- (vii) JIH to minute authorisation re **bank account**. PV/GRP to authorise.
- (viii) GB to speak to Ian Billington re **BSCA**, and Michelle Paget re CX intro sessions.