

WMCCCL Annual General Meeting – Minutes

Held at 14:00 on Saturday 29th March 2025 at Mappleborough Green Primary School, Henley Road, Studley, Warwickshire B80 7DR

Attendees

Present	Club
Gary Rowing-Parker – Chair	Solihull CC
Peter Varian - Treasurer	BMC
Judith Harper - Secretary	Solihull CC
Paul Berry	Rotor Racing Team
John Potts	RRPCC
Sally Potts	RRPCC
Paul Sobczyk	Worcester St Johns CC
Clinton Haywood	Worcester St Johns CC
Adam Parker	Solihull CC
Zoe Parker	Solihull CC
Genny Billington	BOCC
Stewart Phipps	BOCC
Ailsa Neely	Solihull CC
Kevin Payton	Stourbridge CC
Tom Payton	Stourbridge CC
Peter Marshall	Stourbridge CC
Yvonne Marshall	Committee
Mike Cooper	
Adam Witchell	KWCC

1. Apologies

Adrian Ravenscroft, Roger Allen, Simon Jackson, Robin Baker, Mark Leyland, Phil Metcalfe, Darren Atkins, Toby Davis, Dave Mellor, Dave Feiven.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the AGM held Saturday 29th April 2024 at Mappleborough School, were accepted as a correct record. See **Appendix I, website** <https://wmcccl.co.uk/docs/>.

Actions:

- (1) WMCCCL Chair to explore alternative timing systems and providers – the committee explored alternative options. Detailed discussions were held with one other and pricing received; they have a more sophisticated timing system and a much higher cost. Therefore, it was decided that we should stay with D3Racetec.
The chair explained the difference between an active and passive timing system: the latter only provides a time across the finish line whereas an active system allows for tracking; this is not necessary for CX racing.
- (2) WMCCCL committee to ensure Constitution and Rules are updated and placed on Website – this has been completed.

3. Chair's Report (GRP)

A copy of the Chairs report is attached at **Appendix II**.

GRP also thanked all the event organisers; Mick and Cindy Davies from D3RaceTec; West Midlands Commissaires; the Sponsors Madison & Echelon Cycles; the committee, especially Adam Parker for taking on the league results management and Yvonne Marshall for the podiums, Pete Varian as Treasurer, the first aiders Event Medicare.

An update on Sandwell Country Park venue was requested from the floor. There is none yet. Run&Ride is still in negotiations with the council regarding the National Trophy event. If this does not go ahead then it is hoped that we can still run the regional event there.

4. Treasurer's Report (PV)

See the accounts presented in **Appendix III**

The Treasurer clarified that league membership is for riders only, not clubs/teams .

Concern was raised about the financial loss, and whether we should raise race fees. GRP noted that the fees have not increased since 2021 and do not need to be raised (unless BC increase their levies).

The Chair clarified that the loss of >£2000 was a conscious decision following the discussions at the AGM last year. It is not a problem and can be rectified really easily. This expenditure went towards subsidising the Annual awards presentation and was subject to much discussion within the committee beforehand. It is considered that it is worth paying for a nice venue and noted that to accommodate the number of attendees including accessibility/parking is expensive. Corporate venues tend to charge for the catering, based on number of heads.

Some attendees considered that the venue/food is not good value for money. It was noted that if there is no food the children go as soon as their awards are over as there is no incentive.

ACTION: committee to look into alternative venues not tied to catering such as council facilities, e.g. Town Hall, where we could provide teas instead.

The Treasurer noted that we currently receive sponsorship from Madison, which covers the course tape. This reduces a significant outlay. The committee has been considering the level of reserves required to maintain the league in the event that there is no sponsorship. The league needs to be able to afford and maintain standards, which includes items such as parking, catering vans, toilets etc.

It was noted that the Commissaires fees shown on the accounts are just for the regional championships which requires out-of-region commissaires. The cost of WMids commissaires are included in the events.

5. Elections

There are 12 representatives on the committee. Sally Potts is standing down. The Chair thanked her for her contribution. The remaining representatives are willing to continue. In addition, David Feiven has expressed interest in joining, which would be valuable as a representative of the commissaires. There are still 2 vacancies which GRP is keen to fill.

The current Chair, Secretary and Treasurer were prepared to continue. (Gary RP, Peter Varian, Judith Harper respectively)

Proposed: Peter Marshall; **Seconded:** John Potts

Other representatives: Adam Parker, Paul Sobczyk, Yvonne Marshall, David Payne, Genny Billington, John Potts, Dave Mellor, Mark Leyland.

Proposed: Sally Potts **Seconded:** Ailsa Neely

Noted that although there are no defined roles for the other representatives, Adam Parker is responsible for the league results; John Potts looks after the first aid contract and the awards arrangements; Mark Leyland is responsible for the equipment and Dave Mellor organises the trophies. The committee would benefit from someone who could look after social media. Genny Billington agreed to do this.

David Feiven to join **Nominated:** Gary Rowing Parker; **Seconded:** Pete Varian.

All were unanimously accepted and approved by the AGM.

6. Proposals 2025

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

Only one proposal was received in advance. Members may make further proposals at the meeting.

All proposals require a Seconder who is present at the meeting.

(1) Proposal from Pete Marshall: that

“The committee to explore with other British regional cyclocross leagues the benefits of all regional cyclocross leagues cooperating on agreed matters for the benefit of grass roots cyclocross. These discussions to include (but not be limited too):

- Sponsorship of leagues by national organisations. Publicity of local league by national organisations. The support presently given to Regional leagues by British Cycling
- The costs of the BC levies on grass roots cyclocross.
- The make up of the British Cycling Cyclocross commission.
- Support given to young riders at national and international level by British Cycling
- Any other matters of mutual benefit to Regional cyclocross leagues.

Seconded by Judith Harper.

Discussion: Prior to 2000, the regional cyclocross leagues were separate from British Cycling. Since the incorporation with BC there has been no formal co-ordination. Support from the national body is very limited and focused on the Olympics, which generates funding. Only one of the regional leagues operates outside of BC, which the Chair would not advocate. GRP was concerned that this could cause trouble and upset BC and the CX commission, a BC body led by Helen Wyman; David Garrett of the WMCCL was formerly on the commission; David Mellor (WMCCL Committee) is closer to the workings of this.

The proposer was keen that leagues could work together for sponsorship from a national organisation, and to generally promote/raise the profile of CX.

JIH noted that with the reduction in media airtime being given to cycling in general this could lead to a decline in awareness of and uptake of the sport, ultimately affecting CX.

The Chair noted that there is competition between regional leagues and WMCCL is seen as a stronger contender potentially 'stealing' best riders from other leagues. This may result in not all leagues wanting to participate. The proposer highlighted that the proposal was to *explore*...

There were no votes against. **PASSED.**

- (2) Proposal from Ailsa Neely - that the AGM should be promoted to non-league-members. Comms should go wider. Only members get direct emails. Whilst we need to be wary of GDPR It was agreed that Race organisers and commissaires should be included in mailings.
- (3) Proposal from Stuart Phipps – That there should be a cut-off date for adding new 'counting races' to the schedule.

There was considerable discussion regarding the 80% rule for counting rounds. If another race is added, then it can tip the balance of 'counting rounds' causing an additional one to be required. This is unfair for people who cannot attend and who have planned around the approved schedule. It can be difficult for those taking part in National Trophy races.

Noted that the league is about participation not winning races, and to encourage people to race at regional level, so favours regular attendees.

There is a risk that if someone is willing to organise a race at short notice, attendance may be low due if it is not a 'counting round'.

At last year's AGM there was a proposal to reduce the number of counting rounds to 75%, but it was rejected.

The proposal agreed as: "At the 1st September, the number of counting rounds will not be increased. Rounds added to the calendar after that date will still count towards League points, but the number of counting rounds will not be increased. However, rounds that are cancelled after that date will trigger a recalculation of the number of counting rounds – in line with the 80% rule."

Seconded: Adam Witchell

For: 7; Against: 1. PASSED

- (4) Proposal by Pete Varian – that the amount of money not claimed from prizes should have a cut-off date of 30th April.

Seconded; Yvonne Marshall

PASSED

7. Any Other Business

- (i) **Event cancellation** -Two events were cancelled. Guidance is needed for organisers in the event of bad weather, including communications, i.e. a deadline. Agreed that the committee should discuss this with organisers. **ACTION**
- (ii) **Parking Fees** – there was a discussion regarding the different charges for parking at various events. All our events are the same cost, but we have to be flexible about available venues versus affordability for riders. At Top Barn we have no choice, and no other suitable venue in the area.
- (iii) **Publication of results by Velo UK** – it has been noted that the WMCCL results posted are a bit random and often show only the winners for WMCCL, a prestigious league, whereas they post the full podium results of other leagues.
VeloUK is an independent organisation, but it is probable that they post what information they are given. Often this is down to GRP to send information which can be

limited at the time required. Consistency in reporting should be practised. This could be helped by having a media person as discussed earlier.

- (iv) **Commentators** – the Value of commentators was agreed, but they are difficult to come by. We will keep supporting this. It would be nice/beneficial, but difficult, to have consistency between the races.

Actions

- (i) Committee to look into alternative venues not tied to catering, such as council facilities, e.g. Town Hall, where we could provide teas instead.
- (ii) Committee to explore with other British regional cyclocross leagues the benefits of all regional cyclocross leagues cooperating on agreed matters for the benefit of grass roots cyclocross.
- (iii) Committee to discuss with race organisers a procedure in the event of need to cancel an event.
- (iv) Committee to establish consistency in reporting results.

The minutes were approved by

Chairman Gary Rowing Parker _____

Secretary Judith Harper _____

Date _____

APPENDIX I – Minutes of AGM 2024 – see website

APPENDIX II – Chair's Report

WMCCCL Chair's Report to the Annual General Meeting 2025

Welcome to this year's AGM. I'd like to give a short summary of participation levels and achievements in 2024, and to thank the wonderful people who made it all possible.

Participation

We ran 11 events in 2024. 12 were planned, but the final round had to be cancelled due to flooding, and the Under-12 races were cancelled at the Regional Championships (Round 10) due to high winds.

As a result of the cancellations, participation was down on the previous season in terms of individual rides - i.e. one person riding one event. There were 4,456 rides in 2023 and 3,864 in 2024. But if we remove the cancellations from the equation, the average rides per event was only slightly lower. The average in 2023 was 371, and in 2024 it was 366. That's less than a 2% reduction, which we hope does not indicate a downward trend.

There was no significant change in participation in most of the categories. We continue to see a dramatic fall-off in participation after the age of 16. Riders tend to return in their 40s, but it is clearly difficult to reconcile the demands of competing regularly in cyclocross with those of further and higher education, starting work and raising families. We would love to hear suggestions on how we might engage more riders throughout these stages in life.

Congratulations

It's been a good year for our riders at the National Championships. Pride of place goes to Isaac Vickery – National Champion Under-14. Two of our riders got Silver medals: Ceris Styler – 2nd V40-49 and Sally Reid – 2nd V60+, and Rose Lewis got a Bronze – 3rd Under-16. We're very proud of everyone from the WMCCCL who competes at this level.

Well done too, to all our category winners in WMCCCL 2024. They are listed on the WMCCCL website [League Tables](#) page. Congratulations also to the team award winners:

- Senior Team Award: Rotor Race Team
- Under-12 Team Award: Newport Shropshire CC
- Mick Ives Participation Award: Stratford CC.

And very well done to our three individual rider award winners:

- Steve Knight Trophy Rider of the Year: Sullivan Berry
- Outstanding Young Female: Scarlett Ford
- Outstanding Young Male: Issac Vickery.

Now for some thank you's...

Thank You

I want to thank some individuals and organisations without whom WMCCCL 2024 wouldn't have happened:

- Firstly, our fantastic race organisers and clubs. The success of the League is down to these amazing teams of volunteers. Here's the roll of honour for 2024:
 - Round 1. Steve Large – Royal Leamington Spa CC
 - Round 2. Dave Mellor – Mid Shropshire Wheelers
 - Round 3. Matthew Harris – Halesowen A&CC
 - Round 4. Steve Groves – Stratford CC
 - Round 5. David Green – Solihull CC
 - Round 6. Steve Broatch – Dynamic Rides CC
 - Round 7. Clinton Haywood – Worcester St John's CC
 - Round 8. Simon Jackson – Newport Shropshire CC
 - Round 9. Robin Baker – Redditch R&PCC/Warwick Lanterne Rouge CC
 - Round 10. Rob Burns – Malvern Cycle Sport
 - Round 11. Matt Williams – Run and Ride
 - Round 12. Pete Varian – Beacon RC/Stourbridge CC.
- Mick and Cindy Davies from D3Racetec, who produced the race results.
- The West Midlands Commissaire team, who kept everything fair and safe.
- Our League sponsors: Madison (overall) and Echelon Cycles (One Bike competition).
- Our League Committee – who work year-round behind the scenes – in particular two who've taken on new roles this year:
 - Adam Parker, who prepared the start sheets and compiled the League Tables.
 - Yvonne Marshall, who helped race organisers deliver podium presentations.
 - Pete Varian, our new Treasurer.

Finally, thank you to everyone of you who rode the West Midlands Cyclo-Cross League in 2024. You make it one of the best regional leagues in the UK.

Next Season

We already have 11 events confirmed for 2025 – with new venues at: Evesham VeloPark, Princethorpe College and Solihull Riding Club. The Regional Championships will be organised by Halesowen A&CC at Baggeridge on 23rd November.

But we would like one or two more events – especially toward the end of the season. So, if you or your club would like to join the 'roll of honour' above, please contact me. We can suggest dates, venues and potential partner clubs, and we will give you lots of support. Don't forget that the League supplies the race-day equipment, timing and first aid services. The organiser's role is to liaise with the venue; design and build a course, and to supply a team of volunteers on the day.

We will let you know confirmed details for the season as soon as we can. Meantime, I hope to see you all again in September – for Round 1 of WMCCCL 2025!

Gary Rowing-Parker - WMCCCL Chair

APPENDIX III – Treasurer’s report

WMCCCL Balance Sheet 2024/2025

Opening Balance on 11/04/24

£17,907.07

Income

League Affiliations	£4,767.59
Events Income—Inc. Prizes and Levies	£22,888.00
Sponsorship from Madison	£2,000.00
Annual Awards Tickets	£2,492.94
Total Income	£32,148.53

Total + Opening Balance

£50,055.60

Expenditure

Prizes	£5,169.00
Equipment Storage	£720.00
Officials Expenses	£438.85
AGM Room Hire	£42.00
Race-Day Equipment	£503.87
Numbers	£936.29
Trophies and Medals	£3,373.62
Timing Services	£7,002.50
Bursary	£1,700.00
Flowers	£70.66
Commissaire’s Fees	£200.00
BC Affiliation	£80.00
Levies Paid to BC	£9,070.00
Committee and Other Expenses	£1,347.61
Annual Awards Venue Hire	£4,044.00
Total Expenditure	£34,698.40

Closing Balance on 18/03/25

$$£50,055.60 - £34,698.40 = £15,357.20$$

NB: the Closing Balance includes: £166.00 in donations and £860.00 in unclaimed prizes. Regional Championship medals have not yet been invoiced by British Cycling.