

# Minutes of NDCXL Committee Meeting

Thursday 30 November 2017 at 7:30pm

## The Red Cow, Allestree

### Present:

Gavin Hardwicke (Fossa) – Chairperson; Richard Shenton (Beeston CC) – minute taker; Tim Cooper (Bolsover and District); Peter Turner (Derby Mercury RC); Robert Wimble (Drogon RT); Heather Wimble (Drogon RT); Chris Watts (Matlock CC); Russ Cox (South Pennine RC); Ian Bradley (Heanor Clarion); Karen Lifford (British Cycling).

### 1. Apologies

Apologies received from Heather Howarth-Downey; Martin Howarth-Downey; Steve Kirk; Neil Mansfield, Steve Johnson (BC), Dean Barnett (Leicestershire League) and Maddi Smith.

### 2. Matters arising

- I. *Chip collection buckets* Purchased for use at Bingham and HPP. Heather reported that the list of missing chips is currently much shorter than when the issue was discussed at the last meeting although the collection buckets probably had little to do with this.
- II. *Line judge recruitment* Richard reported that he had managed to recruit two possible line judges from Beeston RC. It was agreed that Gavin would contact membership directly and Maddi would encourage event organisers to recruit volunteers.

**ACTION: Maddi to contact organisers and Gavin to email membership in order to recruit more line judges.**

### 3. Admin Update

Gavin announced that there are almost 500 League members, which is up on last year. He also stated that the BC affiliation fee has now been paid.

### 4. Communications Update

In Neil and Steve's absence Gavin read from their notes:

Most of the race reports are now written by Alex from Forme. U12s / U9s reports are intermittent due to lack of volunteers. A potential U12 reporter no longer wishes to help after being sworn at last year by an unnamed person associated closely with NDCXL - Gavin aware.

Steve is concerned that much of the information on the website is out of date. It was agreed that this should be reviewed along with the structure and hosting. He also mentioned the fact that he, Gavin and Neil have been unable to meet to discuss the future of the League's website.

**ACTION: Steve to supply web usage figures if possible**

### 5. Events Update

In Maddi's absence Gavin read from her notes:

There have been a series of duplicate entries over recent events, which have been weeded out and organisers and BC informed. Discussion at the meeting suggested that this must be due to riders entering more than once in error.

Gridding sheets are now being processed by Heather using an algorithm created by Darren.

Gridding now only includes League affiliated riders as per League regulations.

### 6. Results Update

Heather reported that there had been a lot less queries this year, which she put down to the chip timing team cutting and pasting names and numbers rather than manually typing them.

## **7. Finance Update**

In Heather's absence Gavin read from her notes:

The League bank account stands at £19,051.

Levies are still outstanding from Nottingham Clarion's round.

Forme is yet to be invoiced for sponsorship and barrier tape (£1,500 and £877.80 respectively).

Levies yet to be paid to EMCCA - Andy Naylor aware.

## **8. Logistics Update**

Without a member of the logistics team present there was no update.

## **9. Officials Update**

Russ explained the difficulties involved when starts areas are a good distance from the finish area.

He described Berry Hill as having the ideal finish straight.

## **10. Code of conduct**

Karen referred to British Cycling's Go Ride code of conduct, which could be adapted quite simply, and Heather mentioned the code of conduct adopted by the North East and North West Leagues, which are very similar. It was agreed that sanctions and a mechanism to enforce them need to be part of the code.

**ACTION:** Richard to distribute example codes of conducts for discussion at the next meeting.

## **11. Second claim clubs**

It was agreed that the possible issue of riders racing under more than one team/club for cyclocross should be policed more stringently at the beginning of the 2018/19 season. This will begin with a review of the constitution and rules relating to the subject. Measures to prevent dual club/team registration:

- I. Open club/team affiliation mechanism as early as possible with clear deadline - Admin
- II. Check that all clubs/teams wishing to affiliate to NDCXL are correctly affiliated to BC - Admin
- III. Publicise rules relating to riding for one club/team for all CX events - Comms
- IV. Riders can only affiliate to NDCXL after club affiliation deadline has passed - Admin
- V. Lists of affiliated riders to be sent to relevant club/team contacts to ensure that they are registered under the correct club/team. (BC and Admin)

**ACTION:** Timeline to be established for process

## **12. Purchase of leaf blower for clearing leaves from courses**

Tim suggested that the purchase of a 12 volt leaf blower would help organisers clear courses of leaves. It was agreed that event organisers should be asked if they would like the League to buy equipment to make working on their courses easier.

**ACTION:** Early off-season question about equipment required to be sent to event organisers by Maddi.

## **13. Alternatives to registration deadline: whole season registration / on the day entry when races aren't full?**

Nicola Steel suggested two alternatives to the current system of online entry only with a deadline:

- I. Introduce an option to enter all races at the beginning of the season.

This option has been considered in the past but is impractical because of the structure of the League. Events are run independently and budgets are set by individual organisers. A single payment to enter all events would be paid to NDCXL and subsequently divided up and allocated to the accounts of the various organisers.

This would be unwieldy. However, this proposal would be reconsidered if BC's payment mechanism were to be developed to enable payment direct to all organisers on receipt of a single payment to enter all events in a season.

- II. Introduce an option to sign up on the day when races aren't full.

A positive by-product of the current system is the reduction of stress felt by registration volunteers. To re-introduce on the day entry would be a backward step in this regard and also give them the unenviable task of potentially disappointing riders and parents.

#### 14. U12s and the Regional Championships

Tim Cooper asked if U12 riders can race in any regional championship event in order to receive average points. It was agreed that this was the case.

**ACTION:** Richard to ask Comms to publicise the decision and, at the same time, explain the mechanism for obtaining average points in the League when racing outside the East Midlands Regional Champs: contact Heather W via results query page on the website.

#### 15. Event Reviews

- I. **Bingham**

Karen highlighted the continuing issue of parking at the venue. Neil pointed out that a 90 degree turn was a surprise addition to the Youth course, not helped by a marshal directing riders the wrong way.

- II. **Holme Pierrepont**

The size of the pits was an issue including the wash area and pit lanes. Also, from one side of the pits it was difficult to see oncoming riders until the last second.

Car park marshalling around the race village area was inadequate resulting in vehicles not owned by officials being parked 'illegally'.

- III. **Berry Hill**

Russ complained that the U9 course was too short but complimented organisers on the length of the Youth course and the positioning of the finish. Neil asked if "more of the 'fun' stuff be included in the youth course" next year?

- IV. **Markeaton Park (Derby Mercury)**

Russ pointed out that the Youth lap was too long at 8.5 minutes per lap.

#### 16. Any Other Business

- I. **Heather W:** Query from Hilary Johnson concerning number of age categories for women. It was confirmed that women's age categories do not match the men's because of rider numbers.

- II. **Ian Bradley:** Made a point about poor etiquette in the pits at most races. He has had equipment broken as a result of poor behaviour. Richard mentioned that his partner had noticed an increase in aggressive behaviour in pits.

**ACTION: Pit crew education required.**

- III. **Russ:** Asked if it was worth using the U12 start markers next season. It was agreed that this would be welcomed.

Asked if start banners for senior races would be provided by Forme next season. Gavin explained that new start banners would be available next season.

Asked if it would be possible to use live video streaming in order to commence race timing from the finish line. It was noted that not all venues have internet

connectivity but the use of technology at events might be something to consider in the future.

- IV. **Darius Wania:** Concerned that league tables do not reflect true positions until the final race. This is because riders are able to drop a set number of their lowest scoring rounds per season. To resolve this he suggested:

- a. Drop the three lowest scores throughout the season as they occur. Round 4 would therefore be the first meaningful league table and it gets more accurate as the season progresses.
- b. Show the average scores and sort by that.
- c. Publish the actual spreadsheet and let us do all the sorting and calcs we want offline.

He is also concerned that gridding is being affected by these inaccuracies.

Responses from members who attended the meeting:

- a. Heather pointed out that after round 8 the three lowest scores are dropped anyway, producing a relatively accurate table. This is possible after round 4 but would produce a large number of 'ties' creating issues with the order in which riders are presented in the table.
- b. Presenting riders by average points was considered meaningless as riders who only race a couple of times at the beginning of the season and finish highly would then sit at the top of the table all year despite not actually being in the mix for the overall.
- c. Because of the complexity of formulae used in the spreadsheet it was felt that it would be difficult for members to work with. Instead, it was suggested that they might like to create their own spreadsheet.

It was also pointed out that league tables can never be accurate until the last race as riders can DNF or DNS right up to the last event, and therefore not complete the minimum number of rounds.

Finally, Heather stated that gridding is now conducted by average points so it is not affected by the order that riders appear in the tables.

- V. **Steve Kirk:** Belper BC has reviewed the issues that resulted in confusion over the allocation of jersey numbers and chips at Alfreton and they are not aware of the correct procedure to follow when chips or numbers are missing.

Gavin explained that the issue was a result of allocating rider numbers by gridding position and then ordering rider names alphabetically on the sign on sheets. Consequently it was difficult to determine what the last number was and therefore mistakes were made.

- VI. **Gavin:** It was noted that Richard Edge had offered to be involved in organising the prize presentation evening and it was agreed that Gavin would draft a newsletter in an attempt to build a team to push forward on this. Neil Mansfield kindly offered to put together a picture quiz again.

**Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 1 February, 2018 - 7.30pm at the Red Cow.**