

Event: NDCXL Annual General Meeting

Date: 8th April, 2020

Venue: Zoom

Present	Emma Payne	Fossa Racing	Chair
	Richard Shenton	Beeston CC	Minute taker
	Karen Lifford	British Cycling	
	Steve Johnson	British Cycling	
	Heather Wimble	Drogon RT	
	Rob Wimble	Drogon RT	
	Tracy/Tiffany Fletcher	Cycle Derby	
	Philip Newall	Cycle Derby	
	John Holmes	Team Empella	
	Tim Berry	Team Empella	
	Alicia Lisle	Team Empella	
	Maddi Smith	Bolsover and District CC	
	Matthew Payne	Bolsover and District CC	
	Chris Hunt	Nottingham VC	
	Nick Chilton	Derby Mercury	
	Andrew Naylor	Fossa Racing	
	Steve Kirk	Belper	
	Simon Hale	Army Cycling	
	Tony Donaldson	Ilkeston Cycling Club	
	Stuart Reeves	Coalville Wheelers	
	Martin Howarth	Nottingham Clarion	
	Heather Howarth-Downey	Nottingham Clarion	
	Chris Watts	Matlock CC	

1. **Apologies** – It was confirmed that no apologies had been received.

2. **Annual Team Reviews**

a. **Admin**

Richard highlighted some of the changes that were agreed at the 2019 AGM and implemented for the 2019-2020 season.

Emma outlined ongoing discussions with Forme concerning League sponsorship.

b. **Logistics**

Andy outlined some of the challenges that arose during the 2019-2020 season as a result of Forme no longer delivering event equipment to venues. While a solution had been found it was not ideal and requires improvement.

ACTION: Improve on event equipment logistics.

c. Officials

John H described the 2019-2020 season as the hardest to fill commissaire slots, especially the chief comm's. He finished on a positive note though, stating that the last two events of the season had a large number of trainees. Andy underlined the issue by stating that the change to the race day schedule has resulted in a shift in the chief comm's role: managing a team of at least three comms. Karen acknowledged that this is an issue across other leagues too.

d. Results

Heather W referred to the gridding changes, which resulted in no more queries than usual, and that there were some affiliation queries at the beginning of the season. She added that having a cut-off for results and league table queries would prevent the issue created at the end of this season when a mistake in the results wasn't picked up by the rider until well after the close of the season.

e. Events

Maddi thanked Stuart for making improvements to the event spreadsheet. She acknowledged that moving the entry deadline to Sunday had made the work much more manageable. She also referred to the need for an event organiser pack and pre-season meeting. Andy supported the need for an EO pre-season meeting.

ACTION: Event organiser meeting to be discussed.

f. Communications

Steve stressed the fact that since Neil Mansfield left the team he is the only member of the Comms team, with Emma looking after Facebook and Twitter. Emma noted that there are two prospective volunteers with an interest in Comms.

ACTION: Emma to set up meeting with prospective Comms volunteers.

g. Finance

Heather D presented the financial summary. She noted that the bank balance in April 2020 was very similar to the balance in 2019. All payments are up to date. She highlighted the fact that she and Martin are stepping down as the finance team to be replaced by Tony Donaldson and Stuart Allen. Heather will be updating the treasurer handbook and make arrangements with Tony and Stuart to change the bank signatories. Martin observed that £14K is a good reserve.

Matt asked if there were plans to discontinue the EMCCA levies. Andy stated that the EMCCA will need to discuss this.

Emma, on behalf of the League, offered to formally thank both Heather D and Martin for their commitment to the League over the years.

3. Appointment of auditors

Richard explained that the League's constitution requires the appointment of an auditor (see 8.4.4). As this has been overlooked in the past there was some discussion about who might be appropriate and Chris Hunt, who is a chartered accountant, offered to assist.

ACTION: Richard to contact Chris to arrange the auditing of the year's accounts

4. Election of Volunteer Team Leaders

For the purpose of running League the constitution states that the volunteer team will include elected officers (Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) and sub-groups with team leaders. For the AGM the elected officers stood down and were subsequently nominated for re-election.

- a. **Chair** Emma Payne was the only nominee for the role of Chair. Proposed by Heather W and seconded by Heather D. Emma was unanimously elected to the role of chair.
- b. **Treasurer** Tony Donaldson and Stuart Allen were jointly nominated for the role of treasurer. Proposed by Matt Payne and seconded by Richard. Tony Donaldson and Stuart Allen were unanimously elected to the role of treasurer.
- c. **Secretary** Richard Shenton was the only nominee for the role of Secretary. Proposed by Tony Donaldson and seconded by Steve Kirk. Richard was unanimously elected to the role of Secretary.

Prior to the meeting the majority of the 2019-2020 sub-group team leaders agreed to continue in their roles. For the avoidance of doubt the following have agreed to continue as team leaders:

Admin	Richard Shenton / Emma Payne
Comms	Steve Kirk
Logistics	Andy Naylor
Officials	John Holmes
Events	Maddi Smith
Results	Heather Wimble
Finance	Tony Donaldson / Stuart Allen

5. Recruitment of volunteers to assist in the running of the League

It was acknowledged that there should be a continued effort to recruit volunteers as teams become depleted. In addition, it was agreed that the role of U12 gridding should be formalised. Currently, this role is filled by Steven Hinchcliffe.

ACTION: Formalise and agree benefits (BC DBS check, travel expenses) for the U12 gridding role.

6. Proposals

PROPOSAL #1

Proposer: Heather Wimble

Proposal: League affiliation to be open to individuals only. No restrictions based on riders' home address.

Heather W outlined the rationale behind her proposal.

Matt summarised Bolsover & DCC's view on the proposal:

- Club affiliation should continue to be the backbone of the NDCXL
- Membership should be open to individuals irrespective of their address
- Club affiliation deadline in July
- Individuals, with no restrictions on home address, can affiliate from July
- Local riders should be prioritised

Andrew noted that the rationale for the proposal focuses on resolving an administrative issue. However, the proposal could fundamentally change the League's central principle of local clubs and teams at the core of the League.

It was asked if the BC event registration system could assist with the admin issue but Karen advised that it wasn't designed to manage affiliation.

There was some concern that unlimited affiliation could lead to increased numbers at events. As some events are already at capacity in terms of facilities, particularly car parking, any further increase could cause significant issues. In addition there was some discussion about the male vet races which, at some events, is already at or near capacity.

Matt expressed concern that there would be no protection for local riders if affiliation was opened to all. Heather W suggested having a stepped affiliation – local and then external. Alicia suggested removing individual affiliations and allow club affiliations only. Under this arrangement all members of affiliated clubs would automatically become members of the League. This is possible but it was acknowledged that there are a number of issues that would be need to be considered before such a change could be implemented. Karen warned that there are issues around individuals who are not members of an affiliated club and she also noted that the BC web-tool for priority entries requires individuals to affiliate.

Voting:

Please note that the NDCXL constitution stipulates that voting is restricted to “a maximum of 2 votes per member club” (7.9).

1. League affiliation to be open to individuals only.

Against: 14

For: 5

Abstentions: 1

Proposal was not accepted.

2. No restrictions based on riders’ home address

Against: 12

For: 6

Abstentions: 2

Proposal was not accepted.

Because the proposals were not accepted Heather W was keen to stress the need to make the affiliation process much more efficient. It was agreed that a proposal to decide the deadline dates for club affiliations and the removal of rule 4.1 should be considered at the next general meeting.

ACTIONS: Explore options relating to streamlining affiliation and gridding.

Decide on the dates for club affiliations.

Consider the proposal to remove rule 4.1:

“Only competitors privately affiliated to The League, or who are members of a League affiliated club, shall score points in the League competitions.”

7. Fixing of affiliation and race entry fees.

Based on Heather D’s earlier financial report Chris noted that the League’s financial position is stable and therefore recommended maintaining the current affiliation and race entry fees for the coming season. This was unanimously agreed. However, Andy noted that the current charges have been in place for seven years and should be reviewed before the 2021-2022 season.

ACTION: Review affiliation and race entry fees for the 2021-22 season.

8. Event date fixing including regional championships

Karen noted that British Cycling is waiting for guidance on COVID-19 restrictions. Currently BC will lift its racing restrictions on 1 July. If this occurs there will be a gradual resumption of racing. There is a possibility that other (summer) disciplines will want to extend their seasons, which could have an impact on cyclocross. There will also be a need to consider social distancing and other factors at NDCXL events, which now attract 500+ people. It was

therefore agreed that the NDCXL calendar should be finalised as soon as possible and any decisions about the coming season should be made as early as possible.

Regional champs: Matt noted that in order for an event to break even he needs 450 entries but the regional champs held at Misterton in the 2019/20 season only had 296 entrants.

Karen stated that it has been four years since NDCXL hosted the reg champs. When hosted by Leicestershire and Lincolnshire it was the leagues and not a club that organised the event. It was agreed that this should be discussed further at the next general meeting.

ACTION: **Discuss the regional champs**
 Confirm NDCXL event calendar

9. Any other business

Matt proposed the following for discussion at the next general meeting:

1. Ensure that the rules include the option to pay event prizes by BACs.
2. While the deadline for event entries moved to Sunday the deadline for affiliated riders was not adjusted. This effectively compressed the period that non-affiliated riders can enter. He would like to adjust this so that non-affiliated riders have a full week to enter.

Simon noted that the NDCXL constitution/rules do not explicitly state that riders who are members of the Armed Forces are permitted to represent them. Karen stated that this is now part of the BC regs (G5.8.3) and that the same applies to students (G5.8.4). It was agreed that the rules should be brought into line with BC regs.

ACTION: **Discuss methods of remitting prize money.**
 Vote on proposal to move affiliated rider entry deadline to the Sunday
 preceding the unaffiliated entry deadline.
 Discussion re individuals representing Armed Forces and educational
 establishments.