

Event: NDCXL Annual General Meeting

Date: 26th April, 2022

Time: 7:30pm

Venue: Zoom

Present:

Mark Van Adrichem	Matlock	Chair
Richard Shenton	Beeston CC	Minute taker
Steve Seamark	Beeston CC	
Karen Lifford	British Cycling	
Steve Kirk	Belper BC	
Steven Hinchliffe	Bolsover and District CC	
Maddi Smith	Bolsover and District CC	
Nick Chilton	Derby Mercury	
Heather Wimble	Drogon RT	
Andrew Naylor	Fossa Racing	
Tony Donaldson	Ilkeston Cycling Club	
Simon Severn	Ilkeston Cycling Club	
Ian Bradley	Ilkeston Cycling Club	(non-voting)
Gary Strickland	VC Long Eaton	

- 1. Apologies** were received from Tim Berry of Empella, Sandra Field of Beeston RC and Steve Johnson of British Cycling.
- 2. The minutes of the AGM held on 26th March 2021** were accepted as a true reflection of the discussions that took place.
- 3. Matters arising from the AGM held on 26th March 2021.**
 - Comms volunteer recruitment** – Steven Hinchliffe and James Storr offered to cover social media and have been posting on Facebook.
 - Auditor** – Tony confirmed that Stuart Allan audited the 2020-2021 accounts and the 2021-2022 accounts have been forwarded to him.
 - Code of conduct** – was adjusted in line with advice from BC's Compliance Dep't.
 - Allocation of prizes at events to be reviewed** – To be incorporated in a wholesale finance review, when sponsorship deal and BC regional levies have been confirmed.
 - Finance sub-group** – See item 8 below.
 - NDCXL 40th anniversary** – Due to a lack of resources and the cancellation of the prize presentation evening the anniversary was not marked. Potential to re-visit.
 - Regional championships** – Organised by Derby Mercury and held at Markeaton.
 - Event day responsibilities** – Karen reported back at general meeting after the 2021 AGM.

4. Annual reports

a. Admin – Secretary

Richard's report highlighted the retirement of two of the longest serving NDCXL volunteers: Dave Gretton and John Holmes. He expressed the League's gratitude for all they've given to the League and cyclocross over many years. He also wanted to thank Emma Payne for acting as League chair until December 2021 and to Madeline Smith, who has made the difficult decision of stepping down from her role as lead on the Events Team. He also thanked recently recruited volunteers: Sandra Field (Events), Simon Severn (Events), Steve Hincliffe (Comms), Darren Topliss (Officials) and Mark Van Adrichem (Admin - Chair).

Admin – Chair

Mark continued on the theme of volunteers, stressing their importance to the ongoing survival of the League. He made a point of thanking Emma Payne as well as Andrew Naylor, who chaired meetings while the League was between chairs.

b. Logistics

Nick reported that the collection/return of event equipment by organisers worked well. He also noted that barrier tape stocks are depleted and that he would like to replace marshal and pit flags. Andrew N stated that rider numbers need replenishing. Nick pointed out that the sponsorship deal with Forme needs to be finalised before the League places orders. Mark reported that he is meeting with Forme tomorrow.

c. Officials

Karen reported that when John Holmes stepped down as the commissaire coordinator she took on the role until the end of the season. In the meantime, Darren Topliss has agreed to take on the coordinator role for the 2022-2023 season. Karen will be organising training for him.

d. Results

Heather reported that approximately 230 affiliations were automatically rolled over from the 2020-2021 season. The season ended with 414 members of which 312 participated. This compares to a pre-COVID season membership of approximately 500. She also noted that the reduced number of events in the season meant that there was reduced pressure on the Results team. She ended by referring to the issue caused by the inconsistency in the Rules around the number of events to be raced in order to be eligible for a prize versus the number of counting rounds. This caused quite a problem at the end of the season.

e. Events

Maddi announced that she is stepping away from the Events Team. Sandra Field has agreed to set up events on the BC entry system and Maddi will work with her in the coming weeks. Simon offered to take on organiser support.

Mark thanked Maddi for all the time that she's put into the role over the years as well as offering to train Sandra and Simon.

f. Communications

Steve K reported that Steven H's social media input has been key. If he hadn't stepped in the NDCXL page would have been mothballed. He also noted that the website needs some updating but will wait for the outcome of the sponsorship negotiations before making recommendations.

He ended by stating that this will be his last year in the Comms team; he intends to step down at the 2023 AGM. It was agreed that it would be preferable to find a

replacement as soon possible so s/he can shadow Steve K. Steven H stated that he might know a suitable replacement.

**ACTION: Steven H to make enquiries about a webmaster replacement.
Steve K to make a list of possible improvements to the website.**

g. Finance

Tony reported that the League's bank balance started the year at £12,500 and currently stands at £17,000. The increase is primarily due to the transfer of funds from EMCCA, which has now closed. He also noted that the accounts have been skewed by items being purchased for the 2020-2021 season and being used during the 2021-2022 season. This has resulted in lower expenditure during 2021-22.

5. Appointment of auditor

It was agreed that Stuart Allan will audit the 2021-2022 accounts. Tony has already forwarded them on to him.

6. Election of League Chair, Treasurer and Secretary

Mark, Tony and Richard were the only candidates for the roles of Chair, Treasurer and Secretary respectively. In view of this it was agreed that the meeting should vote once for all three officers.

It was unanimously agreed that the three candidates should be appointed as proposed:

Chair Mark Van Adrichem

Treasurer Tony Donaldson

Secretary Richard Shenton

In addition, Team Leader roles were confirmed:

Team	Team Leader(s)	
Admin	Mark Van Adrichem	Richard Shenton
Logistics	Andrew Naylor	Nick Chilton
Officials	Darren Topliss	
Results	Heather Wimble	
Events	To be recruited	
Communications	Steve Kirk (stepping down at the 2023 AGM)	
Finance	Tony Donaldson	

7. Proposals

Proposal 1a

Proposer: Richard Shenton

Proposal: Amend Rule 5.1 so that the minimum number of rounds to be raced in order to receive a prize is reduced from 5 to 4. This resolves an incompatibility between the minimum number of rounds to be raced, as stipulated in Rule 5.1, and the number of dropped scores, as stipulated in Rule 4.8.1.2.

If this proposal is successful, it will also be necessary to amend Rule 2.1 to increase the minimum number of rounds in a season from 5 to 6.

Richard outlined the arguments supporting the proposed amendment to Rules 5.1 and 2.1 (see Agenda), after which the following proposals were put to the vote:

Should Rule 5.1 be amended from:

5.1. To be eligible for a league prize, a rider must have raced a minimum of 5 point scoring rounds.

to

5.1. To be eligible for a league prize, a rider must have raced a minimum of 4 point scoring rounds, that can include the Regional Championships (even if they are not being hosted by the NDCXL).

FOR	12
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	0
PROPOSAL CARRIED	

Proposal 1b

Proposer: Richard Shenton

Proposal: As the above proposal was carried there was a requirement to also amend Rule 2.1 from:

2.1. The League competition shall comprise a minimum of 5 rounds each season...

to

2.1. The League competition shall comprise a minimum of 6 rounds each season...

FOR	12
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	0
PROPOSAL CARRIED	

Proposal 2

Proposer: Richard Shenton

Proposal: Amend Rule 2.6, so that there is more flexibility to hold NDCXL events on days that clash with National Trophy events.

Richard outlined the arguments for the proposed change to Rule 2.6, which will provide a little more flexibility for NDCXL organisers to clash with national level events (see Agenda). Andrew N stated that while the proposal works well, he was disappointed with the lack of communication from BC about date setting for national level events. Ian underlined this point by noting that there are only nine weekends in the season that don't feature a national level event. There was also reference to the late addition of Broughton Hall to the Trophy series of 2021-2022, which clashed with the NDCXL Broxtowe round. It was felt that this was indicative of BC's attitude towards the regional leagues. Heather was concerned that specifying the number of NDCXL rounds that could clash with national events could lead to a need to avoid clashes and, consequently, the League loses events. However, Richard explained that the proposal would retain the qualifier "*Where possible ...*" This provides flexibility if required. Steven H suggested using the distance to a national level event as a determining factor in deciding if NDCXL events should be allowed to clash with it. However, it was agreed that it should be left to organisers to decide if clashing with a national level event is appropriate.

The following proposal was put to the vote:

Should Rule 2.6 be amended from:

2.6. In order to encourage League riders to progress to national level events whilst still supporting The League, no events shall be promoted on National or Regional Championship weekends.

Where possible, the calendar should be organised so that there is no more than one occasion per season when an event occurs on the same weekend as the remaining national level events (National Trophies or Inter-Area Championships).

to

2.6. In order to encourage League riders to progress to national level events whilst still supporting The League, no events shall be promoted on National or Regional Championship weekends.

Where possible, the calendar should be organised so that the events that are held on the same weekend as the remaining national level events (National Trophies or Inter-Area Championships) should not exceed the number of dropped rounds in the programme as defined in rule 4.8.1.

FOR	12
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	0
PROPOSAL CARRIED	

Proposals 3 and 4

Proposer: Ian Bradley

Proposal 3: Amend the race day schedule (Appendix C to the Rules) so that those in the Women's categories start their races with the Vet 50 Men's category.

Proposal 4: Amend the race day schedule (Appendix C to the Rules) so that the Junior/U23/Senior Men categories start their races with the Vet 40 Men's category.

If successful, proposal 3 would split the large Vet Men's event into Vet 40 and Vet 50 and combine the Women cats with the Vet 50s. In turn, proposal 4 would combine the Senior, U23 and Junior Men with the Vet 40s. This will reduce the number of events during the race day and increase the number of riders in two events that have attracted low numbers over previous seasons.

Ian outlined the arguments in support of changing the race day schedule, focusing on the practical aspects of reducing the stress on officials and volunteers by combining the standalone Women's event with the Vet 50s. He also referred to the low numbers in the Women's and Senior Men's events. Combining the smaller events with the large Vet fields would make racing more interesting for riders as well as spectators. It would also result in more spectators watching the final event of the day.

Ian went on to add that neighbouring leagues have a mixture of separated and combined categories for Women and Seniors. Interestingly, the number of riders in Women's events across the leagues is very similar, combined or separate. Karen noted that in the 2019-2020 season the standalone Women's event, the first year that women raced separately, had higher numbers (up to 50) than the Seniors' event. Steve S asked if the drop in Women's

numbers from 2019-2020 to 2021-2022 is proportionally similar to the drop in Men's numbers, but the numbers weren't available to the meeting.

There was an inconclusive discussion about which cats would prefer to ride with other cats and some concern that merging the Women's cats with a Men's cat might deter novice women. In view of this, it was suggested that there should be an emphasis on course design: ensuring that courses are wide enough to accommodate larger numbers of riders by creating plenty of room for passing. Equally, it was suggested that the League needs to improve its communications with novices, both men and women, and to stress that all race incidents must be reported to the commissaire team, so that offenders can be disciplined via BC compliance. There was some discussion about the possibility of introducing novice events within the race day. Steven H pointed out that the Leicestershire League has a novice event that follows the youth event. Mark suggested that NDCXL could consider having introductory novice races in the program of early season events, which is something that Forme is interested in supporting.

There was a significant amount of concern that women's racing was not well represented at the meeting (only two voting female members in attendance). It was therefore suggested that the opinions of those effected by the changes should be canvassed. However, it was felt that Seniors, U23s and Junior Men were not represented at the meeting. It was agreed that decisions had to be made by those who attended meetings. Ideally all constituencies would be represented at meetings, but this is not always possible. Simon also pointed out that although well represented at the meeting the opinion of the Vet 40 and Vet 50 Men, also effected by the change, had not been discussed.

Before voting it was acknowledged that if the proposal was successful, event start times and event durations would need to be discussed and determined.

Finally, it was stressed that if the proposal were successful the change could be considered a season-long trial, as further amendments could be made at the 2023 AGM.

Proposal 3: Amend the race day schedule (Appendix C to the Rules) so that those in the Women's categories start their races with the Vet 50 Men's category.

FOR	10
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	2
PROPOSAL CARRIED	

Proposal 4: Amend the race day schedule (Appendix C to the Rules) so that the Junior/U23/Senior Men categories start their races with the Vet 40 Men category.

FOR	12
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	0
PROPOSAL CARRIED	

ACTION: Event durations and race day event starts to be considered by a sub-group as soon as possible.

PROPOSAL RECEIVED BUT NOT PRESENTED

Richard explained why the proposal relating to points allocated to NDCXL members who ride the regional Championships that was proposed by Mike Adams was not presented at the AGM (see Agenda for full explanation).

8. Fixing of affiliation and race entry fees.

It was proposed by the members of the finance sub-group (Tony, Mark, Richard, Andrew N, Nick) that, although costs to the League are increasing, it is imperative, following COVID-19 and the 'cost-of-living-crisis', that affiliation and entry fees should not increase for the 2022-2023 season. However, the finance sub-group also proposed that, because of increasing costs and the resulting pressure on the NDCXL's finances, the NDCXL levy should be increased by £0.50 per adult entrant. It was acknowledged that this would reduce the race day 'prize pot' and, therefore, event day prizes.

It was felt that a root and branch review of the League's finances is still necessary but not possible when sponsorship for the coming year has not been agreed and it's not clear how much BC's regional levy will be for the 2023-2024 season.

A single vote was conducted to cover the following three proposals:

- Proposals:**
- 1. No change to entry fee**
 - 2. No change to club / team and individual affiliation fees**
 - 3. Increase the NDCXL levy by £0.50**

FOR	12
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	0
PROPOSAL CARRIED	

ACTION: Finance review to be conducted for 2023-2024 season

9. Event date fixing including regional championships

Richard shared the provisional calendar for the 2022-2023 season. There was some discussion about the Markeaton event in December, Nick asking if it was acceptable to clash with the Master. In addition, Steven H confirmed that the Bolsover date was the only date Bolsover could do and they are looking at a new venue. Finally, there was some discussion about the Chetwynd events with Andrew N stating that news from the barracks suggests that the land used for the course is being handed over to developers in December. Andrew is therefore looking at alternative venues, although Ilkeston's second event should be accommodated at Chilwell.

Maddi pointed out that the events need to be set up on the BC system 8 weeks before 1st September. The aim is, therefore, to confirm dates, venues and race day schedule by early June.

Karen advised new organisers to send their membership number to her so she can set them up as an organiser, after which they can set up bank account details on the BC system.

ACTION: Richard to confirm dates and venues with organisers before June.

10. Any other business

No one at the meeting had further topics to discuss.

11. Next general meeting:

End of May (with sub-group to meet asap to discuss race day schedule).