

NOTTS & DERBY

CYCLO-CROSS LEAGUE



Minutes of the NDCXL Annual General Meeting

Date: Thursday 28th March 2024 at 7:30pm

Venue: Zoom

Present:

Mark Van Adrichem (Matlock) (Chair)		Tim Berry (Empella)	Voting
Richard Shenton (Beeston CC) (Secretary)	Voting	Ian Bradley (Ilkeston)	
Stefan Partridge (Bolsover)	Voting	Simon Severn (Ilkeston)	Voting
John Dixon (Bolsover)	Voting	Tony Donaldson (Ilkeston) (Treasurer)	Voting
Bruce Dalton (Matlock)	Voting	Steve Oakes (Ilkeston)	
Mark Ravis (Matlock)		Gary Strickland (VC Long Eaton)	Voting
Christine Chilton (Derby Mercury)		Helen Dussek (Nottingham Clarion)	Voting
Nick Chilton (Derby Mercury)	Voting	Rob Hardisty (Nottingham Clarion)	Voting
Liz Taylor (Derby Mercury)	Voting	Michel Cooke (Nottingham Clarion)	

- 1) It was noted that **apologies** had been received from Andy Humberston and Toby Turner (BC).
- 2) The **minutes of the last AGM held on 28 March 2023** were accepted as a true reflection of the discussions that took place. Proposed by Simon Severn and seconded by Mark VA.
- 3) **Matters Arising from the last AGM held on 28 March 2023.**
 - **Radios for event use** - Nick confirmed that additional radios are not required.
 - **Website DNR** - John confirmed that payment for domain name registration has been made.
 - **Review of suppliers** - it was confirmed that reviews were conducted following the 2023 AGM.
 - **Changes to NDCXL Rules** – completed.
 - **2023-2024 provisional calendar** – completed.
 - **Race entry closing time changed**– completed.
- 4) **Annual reports**
 - a. **Admin – Chair**
Mark VA referred to the recent successful awards evening hosted by the Army, the first awards evening since 2020. He also thanked members of the volunteer teams for all their hard work.
 - b. **Admin – Secretary**
Richard explained why he is taking the difficult decision to step away from the role. He also outlined changes to internal processes should a replacement not be found. For instance, he will suspend the Facebook Buy and Sell page.

c. **Logistics**

Nick reported that it was a straightforward season.

d. **Officials**

In Darren Toplis' absence, Christine noted that last season there was an adequate number of commissaires on the roster.

e. **Results**

Mark Ravis noted that there were 253 affiliated riders last season, which is down on the previous season. He also mentioned that reduced number of events produced scoring issues that hadn't surfaced previously. He therefore suggested that the minimum number of events to constitute a league is correctly set at six.

He announced that he will be stepping away from the results team, with Steve Oakes and Michael Cooke taking on the role. Mark VA thanked Mark for all his hard work and welcomed Steve and Michael.

f. **Events**

Simon provided a summary of the 2023-2024 NDCXL season.

In her absence, Richard explained that Sandra Field has decided to step away from her role liaising with BC in relation to uploading events to their system but is supporting her replacement, Rob Hardisty. Mark VA thanked Sandra for all her hard work and welcomed Rob.

g. **Communications**

John referred to web hosting costs, suggesting that the League's current supplier is competitive. He also outlined planned changes to the website, including installing Facebook on the homepage and creating a library for meeting minutes.

ACTION: John offered to post comms on FB as required.

Richard to give John FB admin right.

h. **Finance - Treasurer**

Tony shared his screen and guided attendees through the annual accounts, highlighting the fact that NDCXL funds are £2000 lower than they were in the run up to the last season. This is partially due to the fact that levies have not been received from Unstone and the cancellation of adult racing at HPP. Even so, it was noted that this is not sustainable.

5) **Appointment of auditor**

Tony reported that Chris Golden (Ilkeston) has offered to audit the League's accounts for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024.

6) **Election of League Chair, Treasurer and Secretary**

Chair: Mark VA confirmed that he will stand.

No other nominations were received before or during the meeting.

Treasurer: Tony confirmed that he will stand.

No other nominations were received before or during the meeting.

Secretary: Richard to stand down.

No nominations received before or during the meeting.

A vote to elect the Chair and Treasurer was held and both nominees were unanimously elected to their respective posts.

7) **Confirm volunteer team leaders**

Prior to the meeting, the following confirmed their continued involvement in volunteer teams:

Logistics Nick Chilton

Officials Darren Toplis

Results Steve Oakes / Michael Cooke

Events Rob Hardisty (event posting) / Simon Severn (organiser liaison)

Comms John Dixon (website admin / Facebook)

8) Proposals

PROPOSAL #1

Proposer: Richard Shenton

Proposal: Bring NDCXL Rules and appendices into line with British Cycling's Transgender and Non-Binary Participation Policy by amending references to male categories to 'open category'.

Rationale:

- See: https://www.britishcycling.org.uk/zuvvi/media/Policy_for_competitive_activity.pdf :
This policy provides how British Cycling's Transgender or Non-Binary Competitors may take part in Competitive Activity within cycling.
This policy shall apply from 1 January of the year of a Competitor's 13th birthday.
For all Competitive Activity, there will be the following competition eligibility categories:
 - Female; and
 - Open

Proposed amendments:

- Amend race categories (above 13 years of age) described in the Rules as 'male', 'men' or 'boys' to 'OPEN'.
- Amend race categories (above 13 years of age) described in the Rules as 'girls' and 'women' to 'FEMALE'.

Discussion:

- It was agreed that the change to the NDCXL rules and constitution is necessary to ensure continued compliance with British Cycling's General Tech Regs and supplementary Cyclo-Cross Regulations (see NDCXL rule 1.2).

FOR	12
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	0
PROPOSAL CARRIED	

PROPOSALS #2.1 and #2.2

Proposer: Richard Shenton

Proposal: Amend NDCXL Constitution items 7.1 and 8.1, so they reflect current practices.

Rationale:

- NDCXL practices have changed rendering items 7.1 and 8.1 inaccurate.

Proposed amendment #2.1:

- Amend item 7.1 from:
7.1 *General meetings shall be held face to face;*
to
7.1 *General meetings shall be held face to face or using an agreed video conferencing platform.*

FOR	12
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	0
PROPOSAL CARRIED	

Proposed amendment #2.2:

- Delete the second clause of item 8.1, which states that AGMs should be held between the end of the season and the EMCCA date fixing meeting (EMCCA no longer in exists).
8.1. The League will hold an AGM once in every calendar year and not more than 15 months after the last.

FOR	12
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	0
PROPOSAL CARRIED	

PROPOSAL #3

Proposer: Nick Chilton

Proposal: Remove any ambiguity in the League’s Rules relating to gridding by deleting Rule 1.2.5.

Rationale:

- Rider safety is the primary reason for gridding riders. Faster riders at the rear of the grid will work their way through slower riders who are gridded in front of them, increasing the risk of accidents occurring.
- The approach of gridding based on average points and not league position ensures the fastest League riders are gridded first, irrespective of the number of races riders have competed in. This ensures League riders who organise, volunteer or are unable to race for other reasons are gridded based on ability.
- Rule 1.2.3 states that:
1.2.3. Any gridding procedure for the start of any of the races will be decided on by The League Committee and will be included in Appendix C.
This negates the need for Rule 1.2.5.

Proposed amendments:

- Delete Rule 1.2.5, which states:
*1.2.5 To aid safety, the start of the U9 and U12 races shall be gridded by league position.
A clearly marked start area should be sectioned off to prevent riders congregating in the general area until a predetermined time. The Start Official will call up the riders and proceed to allow the riders to line up by league position. A small gap may be left between each category if deemed appropriate by the Start Official.*

Discussion:

- It was agreed that gridding by average league points is an essential risk mitigation at the start of races.

FOR	12
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	0
PROPOSAL CARRIED	

PROPOSAL #4

Proposer: Nick Chilton

Proposal: Amend the NDCXL Rules so that they are clear on the races that riders can enter.

Rationale:

- There is some ambiguity in BC Tech Regs concerning Vets / Masters racing with seniors. While section CX4.2 and CX4.3 sets the requirement for U12 and Youth categories, the BC rule book has no specific rule covering Vets / Masters entering senior/U23 races, even though the BC Tech Regs' SYNOPSIS OF AGE CATEGORIES FOR 2024 for CX (page 187 of the 2024 version) implies that Cyclocross Masters' categories are a subset of the Senior category, thereby suggesting that Senior races are open to all categories of Masters.
- Vets / Masters race against Seniors at national cyclocross level regularly.
- NDCXL should enable Vets racing against Seniors by amending Rule 4.2, which states that riders have to race in their 'correct' age category to accrue league points.

Proposal: Amend Rule 4.2 from:

4.2 Riders must ride in their correct age category as specified in BC rules to get league points (see Appendix C).

to

4.2 Riders must ride in their correct age category as specified in BC rules to accrue league points (see Appendix C).

The only exception to Rule 4.2 is:

4.2.1 Riders that are classed as Veterans by virtue of their age can enter Senior category races on the understanding that:

4.2.1.1 League points cannot be transferred between age categories.

4.2.1.2 Average points will only be applied to a rider's primary category (as identified on their BC license) unless the rider has elected to race exclusively in an alternative category. When this occurs points will be awarded to the rider in the one category they have raced in.

Discussion:

- There was some concern from the Results team about tracking riders racing in age categories that are not the age categories on their BC licence. It was agreed that the changes are necessary, so finding a method of enabling Vet riders to race with Seniors is essential. The new 'Open' category presents the Results team with similar issues. It was therefore suggested that the Results team would adjust their existing model depending on need.

FOR	12
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	0
PROPOSAL CARRIED	

It was noted that although he was not voting, Mark R would have abstained because of the additional work required for the Results team.

PROPOSAL #5.1

Proposer: Helen Dussek

Proposal: Remove the option for clubs and teams to become members of the League and open individual membership to all, irrespective of their address.

Rationale:

- Increase membership of the League.
- Few clubs / teams are represented in the League.
- Other leagues have opened up their membership to all.

Proposed amendments:

- Amend Constitution item 4.1 from
4.1. *Membership of The League shall be open to any club whose club address (as registered with British Cycling) is in the counties of Nottinghamshire or Derbyshire or to any private individual who lives within these counties.*
to
4.1. **Membership of The League shall be open to any individual who chooses to affiliate with the League.**
- Amend other Rules that refer to club membership and private members.
- Review relevance of team prizes and Harry Gould Participation Award.

Discussion:

- Stefan and Tony pointed out that the affiliation process for both clubs and individuals is difficult to administer.
- Tony noted that a new membership model could lead to the financial sustainability of the League if membership fees are set appropriately.
- Ian felt that removing obstacles to membership is key.
- Tony suggested that this proposal is the foundation of the next steps to developing the League.
- Helen argued that the culture of cycling has changed, with clubs becoming less important to those participating in NDCXL.

FOR	12
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	0
PROPOSAL CARRIED	

ACTION: Outcome of proposal to be publicised on socials.

9) Fixing of affiliation and race entry fees

It was agreed that a decision on membership and race entry fees should be deferred until the next general meeting.

10) Event day fixing

- Ian stated that he has not committed to organising event.
- Nottingham Clarion has booked HPP for 28 Sep.
- Nick is intending to organise:
 - Regional champs at Markeaton Park (date TBC) (to be treated as a NDCXL event)
 - National Trophy at Moorways on 5-6 October
 - DMRC round at Markeaton in January
- Chris Green has indicated that he will be organising an event on behalf of Matlock.

11) Any other business

- **Bruce** argued that the League is facing an existential crisis with reduced membership, minimal events and low volunteer numbers. In view of this, the future of the League needs to be considered as soon as possible. Bruce offered to set up a face to face meeting that focuses on hearing ideas about how to improve the League, to grow membership, volunteer numbers and the quantity of events.

12) Date of next meeting

The Future of the League: Face to face and Zoom meeting April 11th 2024 – venue tbc by Bruce.

General meeting: Zoom meeting no later than 16 May 2024.

ACTION: Bruce to write text to publicise the Future of the League meeting on socials.
John to upload text to FB.