

BMX EAST AGM

17th October 2016

Attendance: Julie Watts (JW) Braintree
Phil Townsend (PT) Royston
Charlotte Davies (CD) Royston
Darren Foreman (DF) Royston
Gavin Stokes (GS) Braintree
Sam King (SK) Royston
Julian Allen (JA) Braintree
Becky Gridley (BG) Braintree
Jen Cannons (JC) Braintree
Pete Sargent (PS) Peterborough
Dan Harris (DHa) Milton Keynes
James Frazer (JF) Milton Keynes
Dan Harding (DH) Norwich

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Rich Watts, Mark Tomsett, Lee Alexander, Paul Blanch, Garry Long, Susan Garvey, Cheri Stringer, Phil Hutchinson, Matt Little

MINUTES OF 2016 AGM

The notes from the 2015 AGM were agreed to be correct.

MATTERS ARISING

All matters from 2015 AGM have been discussed in the regional meetings throughout the last 12 months.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR – Julie Watts

JW thanked everyone for their continued support throughout a busy and enjoyable year. JW would additionally like to formally thank Mark Tomsett, on behalf of the region for his work in arranging the regional race teams and coordinating the regional commissaires and club volunteers to enable efficient and organised race meetings. There has been an increase in the number of riders this year compared to last and it is noted that this is spread across all clubs within the region, so well done to the hard work in the clubs for running regular events and coaching for new riders to attend.

The coaching program within the region continues to provide a solid structure with the regional programme run by Julian Allen, JW also noted the improvement and success of this programme had also been noted at British Cycling.

JW described the Brits as a brilliant event with positive feedback from the regional contingent. JW recognised the space issue at the event and the comments previously shared were fed back to the BMX commission and they have advised, that in principle it was a good idea to have regional marquees and are considering organising this, dependent on the venue for 2017. JW thanked the meeting again for the support at the Brits and the support and enthusiasm for the parade which of course resulted in the win as best supported region.

As PT reported to the BC Eastern board, we would like to congratulate Euan Goodman for organising a great BMX event at the Olympics in Rio.

Well done to Charlotte and Emma who recently passed their commissaires course, PT added the next course arranged in November in Leicester.

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JW did note that we would have to be a bit more cautious next year regarding finance but PT would go into more detail in his treasurer report.

FINANCE REPORT 2015 / 16 – Phil Townsend

PT handed out the finances for the year ended 8th October 2016.

Overall the income had in fact increased by £2,000 but the expenditure had also increased with the region starting the year with £8,500 but ended the year with £2,244 and there is still £3,798 still to be paid out.

There were several expenses from the previous financial year which were carried over and were paid within this year.

First aid had increased within last year but wasn't paid until this year, and additionally there were a couple times we couldn't use Essex medics and used another supplier with almost twice the cost.

The main expenses were due to the increased payment to clubs for their summer regionals, previous years it was split 60/40 with the region receiving 60% of the profit, but for 2016, after the expenses (excluding first aid) on the day were paid, then the profit is split 50/50.

PT noted even though Peterborough put on a great event, The EA Champs made a small loss, as it did clash with a number of other regional champs, however it was agreed that we should not rely on visitors from other regions but to budget for the riders we have in the East.

PT said we need to look at running more events and also not combining the Spring Classic with the summer rounds, as the Spring Classic has trophies it usually only just breaks even, but if it is combined with a summer round then that round does not generate revenue for the region. GS noted that 2 of our events clashed with a Euro, although there will be 5 or so missing from our region, it didn't seem to affect our overall numbers, however if other regions schedule so they don't clash with the Euros, we would then pick up 'out of region' riders from other regions.

DHa suggested looking at not clashing EA events with Midlands; however, the Midlands do have a habit of moving their event dates mid-way through the season.

Inter regionals are a good event but this was not organised this year as we were considering having a 4-way regional event in the Autumn, which did not come to anything after all. It was recognised that there doesn't seem to be much interest from the South or Midlands for an inter-regional, and DHA suggested to contacting the SW as it is a developing region and might be keen, but there was not much interest due to a long (long) way to travel.

GS suggested in running the "region's regional" at a club, out of region (maybe a track that is hosting a national later in the year) then there would be a large attendance from other regions.

ACTION: AGM_01: JC to update the excel calendar include 2017 Euro rounds.

ACTION: AGM_02: JW will contact the regionals chair asking when they were looking to program their regional dates.

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ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE

JW formally stood down and handed over to PT for the election of chair.

Post	Nominated	Proposed by	Seconded by	Elected
Chair	Julie Watts	PT	JC	Julie Watts
Vice Chair	Lee Alexander	JA	JFP	Lee Alexander
Treasurer	Phil Townsend	GS	PS	Phil Townsend
Secretary (Admin)	Charlotte Davies	JW	JC	Charlotte Davies
Notes Secretary	Jen Cannons	JW	PT	Jen Cannons
Lead Coach	Julian Allen	GS	JC	Julian Allen
Promotions Officer	Julian Allen	DF	JC	Julian Allen
Commissionaires Co-ordination	Mark Tomsett	JW	PT	Mark Tomsett

JW wanted to discuss finish line volunteer (flv) team as ideally each regional race should have representatives from each club, not all from the same club hosting the event. She suggested to have team made up of all the clubs finish line volunteers and then prior to each regional Mark Tomsett to contact the team to generate a mixed team for the event. This will also relieve the clubs of filling the finish line.

JF said that their MK FLV are happy to work at their event but would be reluctant to assist at other events, as this is when they can sit back and enjoy the racing. JW said there would be no obligation to do every race they would still only work 1 or 2 of the 9 races. JA noted that if everyone had that attitude then there would be no one to run any of the events particularly as 80% of the commissionaires do not even have children who race anymore. BG thought that people would like to know in advance so they can prepare for the day instead of being called in at the last moment to help out on race day.

ACTION AGM_03: All to ask for Finish line volunteers to assist at other race events.

DHa suggested having camera technology instead of using FLV, JW said that there is the cost for purchase, but would also need to have power supplied to the area. In addition it would take the same number of people to run the camera technology and they would have to be specially trained in its use so would be required every race.

JA stated that Braintree have started at club level getting newer parents involved and are looking to mentor volunteers alongside more experience parents and provide job specification so they know what exactly is required.

BUDGET FOR 2017

Levies

PT explained that since BMX joined with British Cycling there had always been the 'threat' of needing to contribute to BC in the same way as the other disciplines who pay race levies to British Cycling (BC). The BC Board has proposed to the National Council to introduce BC levies at BMX regional events, national events have been

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charged a levy for a number of years. PT confirmed this is a different charge to the BC regional levy that the other disciplines also pay into a regional fund.

The BMX commission has raised concerns about the timelines and it has been requested that the winter series for 2016/2017 won't be affected and the levies will come into effect for the summer 2017 series and then all regional events afterwards.

The current levy is paid in two parts - all riders pay £1.50 and then a further £1.50 for 16 and overs. So for each race class the rider would pay £3.00 for 16+ and £1.50 for riders under the age of 16.

JW asked do we want to consider increasing our race fees regardless of the race levies. The current charge is £10 (+1) online and £15 on the day. PT suggested we do not spend too much time on deciding the race fees for 2017 as the levy rate has not yet been set and will not be confirmed until the National Council on 19th November 2016.

JC suggested a charge of £15 (inc online) and then £20 on the day, this would bring us into line with the other regions race fees but the consensus was this would be too high. If the race fees were kept the same with just the current levy rate added, they would be:

Online

Under 16 £10 +1.50 levy = £11.50 then £1 online fee = £12.50

Over 16 £10 + £1.50 +£1.50 = £13.00 then £1 online fee = £14.00

On the day

Under 16 £15 +1.50 = £16.50

Over 16 £15 + £1.50 +£1.50 = £18.00

SK proposed to let the committee to make the decision once the levy's are known, this was agreed.

JC asked are we continuing with having to pay the same amount for racing two bikes or do we re-instate the two-bike discount. JW said that the number of riders riding 2 bikes had increased, this year so the two-bike payment doesn't seem to have put people off however this was mainly down to having to qualify for the Brits on two bikes. Following a lengthy discussion, it was agreed to continue with the full payment if wanting to race both bikes.

PT also noted the BC on-line registration system does not allow for a 2nd class discount so it would be a backward step.

DHa said he felt that instead of charging more on race fees could we decrease our costs, for example smaller trophies or smaller split to clubs. He also suggested perhaps not supplying Brits plates but having just the sticker to cover standard box plate.

PT suggested, as one of the regions, instead of splitting the race profits to the host club, all the funds from races go into the region and then at the end of the year the surplus is split between all clubs. GS suggested splitting the race event 70 / 30% in the regions favour and then any surplus then can be split to the clubs at the end of the year, this way the smaller clubs who have less well attended regionals could still receive a similar financial benefit as the larger clubs.

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PT gave an example of the actual funds, for Round 5 of 2016 Summer Series held at Braintree which had average attendance gave both the club and the region £800, so 70/30 would give £600 for club and £1k for region.

PS strongly disagreed and felt this would not encourage the smaller clubs to grow and develop if a financial reward was going to be handed to them for doing very little or nothing and he suggested the split should remain the same or change to a 66% to the region and 33% to the club.

This was not a sentiment that was agreed by all and created a heated debate resulting in PT proposing a vote for either a split of 70/30 or 66/33, with each club having 1 vote to cast. The 70/30 was carried with a vote of 4 votes.

Previously the winter series has been split 80/20 to the clubs favour and PT suggested changing to this to 60/40 club/region, with Braintree's round 1 being amended retrospectively. This was agreed.

JF also said to look at our expenditure when we go to the Brits (plates or reduced for transfer), shirts and the proposed marques.

ACTION: AGM_04: CF to cost to the Brits for January meeting

2017 RACE SERIES FORMAT

Race classes

PT said that as there are discussions at National Board in changing some of the age and class ranges so he proposed to wait until they are announced before we set our race classes and this was agreed.

GS suggested the females merge into under 13 and over 13 class similar to the Braintree formulas females. JW asked for GS to provide a proposal for this which could then be considered by the region and the riders themselves.

Events

Ideally we would like to have 9 rounds in the 2017 summer series with one held at each club (x6) plus a regions region (x1) and two inter regionals (x2).

There would be no separate Spring Classic this year, and the setting of dates will need wait until the national series dates are advised.

Golden ticket class

No longer run by the region, but each club can come up with a novel and unique money prize for each event.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

No update from Walpole

Discussion on a Colchester BMX track development is still ongoing, proposed plans have been viewed and comments fed back.

JF advised that Dunstable track is built but is not very rideable and or raceable. BC were not involved in this development.

JF noted there is discussion on a track in Aylesbury. DHa agreed to investigate and report back.

JA asked about the realignment of the BMX regions to be in-line with BC standard regions, this would mean we would lose MK to Central but would gain London clubs

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such as Hackney. PT felt that North, Midlands, and South would benefit in being split. However, the downside would mean that Central would only have two BMX clubs – there are no firm plans to realign at the moment.

PT advised that the Sky main sponsorship for BC will cease at the end of the year and the new sponsor HSBK-UK will take over from January 2017. He stated that they initially seem more interested in sponsoring the events including BMX Nationals. There is no further information as yet. There may be more funding for the club if HSBC provide their own infrastructure. Potentially there will be an event management package being put into place – more details to follow.

Milton Keynes Coaching

DHA said the club has a number of volunteers assisting JF with club coaching but they are not fully qualified, they either are or have attended Level 2 coaching course but still need to attend the BMX specific course.

GS suggested that they should focus on one person at a time and then that person go onto the BMX course and then the others to follow. DHa disagreed as he wanted to put through all (any) that were interested, but there is a lack of BMX courses in the close vicinity for them to go on so they are unable to run sessions on the track.

GS added that that if the parents do not have a background of BMX then they should not go straight off on the BC coaching course until they have experience of the sport. JA said Braintree have benefited from having the teenagers volunteer and assist with the newer / younger coaching sessions.

DHa agreed they were good ideas, but if JF is not available then the club can't run any sessions and asked when will be the next BMX specific BC course to run. PT said you need to register your interest in attending a BMX specific event so BC know there is enough interest.

PT noted that a club can run open practice sessions without formal coaching or without a qualified coach and these do not have to be registered although it is good practice to inform BC (Rick Clarkson) of club activities.

JW requested that when inviting 'super star' coaches please ensure they have the relevant qualification and insurance place.

Once you have attended BC commissaire course you were qualified as an assistant commissaire and can run a club race and assist at regional but can not run a regional event until the mentors session has completed.

Update on this – Assistant Commissaires have now been re-designated as Trainee Commissaires and are not qualified to run any events at any level until their logbook has been completed at Regional level and approved.

AOB

There were no further matters required for discussion.

DATES FOR MEETINGS

JW suggested she would select meeting dates perhaps alternate with a Thursday.

Next meeting 28th November