

Attendance: Julie Watts (JW) Phil Townsend (PT)
Braintree: Rich Watts (RW) Julian Allen (JA) Jen Cannons (JC)
Milton Keynes: Marc Deveraux (MD) Dan Harris (DH)
Peterborough Lindsey White (LW) Peter Sargent (SD) Steve Currey
(SC)
Norwich: Dan Harding (DHa)
Royston: Paul Blanche (PB)

Apologies: John Curtis Lee Alexander

ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Rider Rep

Royston have appointed: Dan Blanche, Lee Alexander and James King.

Milton Keynes have appointed: Zara and Austin Lachlan

Neither Ipswich, Braintree or Peterborough have appointed a rider rep. This was carried forward and these clubs were requested to provide names for the next meeting.

TREASURERS REPORT

PT handed out summary of accounts up to 8th January 2016 as the Feb statement hasn't arrived.

In summary, overall since the last report, the region had an income of £2,000 but spent £5,300, which gives an overall balance of £5,320.

No further payments have been received from the Court, PT doesn't believe we will receive any further payments as he thought the last payment would be taken up by Court fees.

Novice Trophies

Previously the clubs have provided the trophies for the novice classes for the Summer Regionals, it was agreed that it would be nice to have a consistent approach so the same award is provided at each Summer Regional.

It was agreed for the region to purchase medals for the Novice classes, giving gold for first, silver for 2nd and bronze for all other places in the novice races.

ACTION: FEB08_01: PT to speak to Trophy UK for medals for the novice classes

Future Expenditure Strategy

At the AGM it was suggested to have a plan on spending for surplus funds instead of the money sitting in the bank.

JA noted that at Braintree we have a Development Strategy document where all ideas of the clubs needs / wants and wishes for is collated, prioritised and reviewed at each meeting. JA said he would ask the Treasurer to forward a copy for PT to be populated with the regions ideas.

ACTION: FEB08_02:

DH suggested using the funds to grow the grass roots levels and encourage new riders to the sport. JW suggested having a designated person that is paid to promote the club and sport around the local area prior to each regional event. MD pointed out that he and MK do promote their races in their area. JA felt that this is exactly what the Go-Ride rep should be doing.

JA felt that in his experience you can promote to the kids all you want, but it is the parents that we need to speak to and get interested. If every club resulted into 3 new members it would be successful.

ACTION FEB08_03: JA to put together a plan on what he could offer covering 2 or 3 schools closest to the tracks to provide free training and coaching sessions prior to the summer regionals.

JW noted there is a new Regional Events Officer for East Region and PT will speak to him and the Central Region (as our BMX Region crosses two regions).

ACTION FEB08_04: PT to speak to the Regional Events Officers for East and Central Regionals to ascertain what support they could offer in new membership.

During a larger discussion on the support and encouragement of new members and novices JC noted that at many races the novices often do seem to know what to do especially when the moto sheets are posted or are in the pens prior to the first race. She suggested a New / Novice Rider Briefing before each race, to explain to parents and riders what happens and when and what each rider should do.

ACTION FEB08_05: JW to hold a new rider / novice race briefing at all the Summer Regionals.

BMX COMMISSION REPORT

From the recent Commission meeting minutes the following important points are to be implemented regarding the 2016 British Championships.

- This year all competitors to wear their region's race shirts, no team shirts or individual shirts allowed. The thinking behind this was to encourage the regions to be represented as one rather than fragmented by teams.

JA asked if teams would be able to purchase gazebo space/area or would it just be the regions allowed gazebos;. JW was unsure of this and would find out.

ACTION FEB08_06: JW to find out if teams were still able to have gazebo space at the Brits.

- Although teams would not be racing in their shirts there would still be an overall team competition. There would be 4 group races Clubs; Region; Non commercial team & Commercial Team.
- To qualify for entry to the Brits, a rider needs to race x 5 expert regional races. Novice rounds will not be counted towards Brits qualification. All qualification races will need to be in the same region. There will be no purchasing of any missed rounds. Dispensation due to injury can be applied for via the Regional committee with medical proof.

- To race in both 20" and 24" (Cruiser) a rider needs to qualify on both bikes.
x 5 Expert Regional races on one bike and x3 Expert Regional races on the other.
All rounds to be raced in the same region.
No purchasing of any missed rounds.

DH asked the thinking behind the reduction of the riders being allowed to be sent to the Worlds and the UK no longer using the full quota of available places.

PT replied that this is mainly a welfare issue as there is limited number of chaperones allowed regardless of the number of participants.

DH noted that this is being applied across all age levels, even to adults where the number of chaperones available is largely irrelevant.

PT added that a place to represent the country should be earned and be the best riders at the right level are sent. In some cases where there is only 16 in a class and 16 qualifying places a rider qualifies by turning up not because he/she is not actually at an international standard.

DH queried the regional alignment and if there were any thoughts on how BC wanted the changes to go and if there was a timeframe. JW and PT advised there is no firm decision on any changes to the regional boundaries and this is something that is being discussed and has been so for a number of years with no foreseeable resolution.

REGIONAL COACHING UPDATE

JA gave an update on the regional coaching with the following highlights:

The Inter Regional competition has is September 10 and 11 2016.

There is a coaching workshop in Braintree for 28th March and all club coaches are invited to attend.

There is an RSR on 21st March at Cyclopark, with 10 riders have been nominated from the regional clubs.

He was pleased to note that numbers have increased and we can now fulfil the required numbers, but unfortunately the standard of the rider ability remains lower than he would like and of other regions.

SUMMER SERIES

JW confirmed, that the Regions Regional and EA Champs had allocated dates but no location, any clubs that would like to host them, she asked for applications to be submitted by the end of the month.

PS interrupted and noted that as per JW's email the applications should be submitted today and be reviewed at this meeting. He felt strongly that this process should be followed and if other clubs did not have their submission then they should miss out on the selection process.

After a heated discussion it was agreed that this was correct.

DH asked if there was a criteria for hosting the EA Champs, JW said she would like it to be an event not just a regional race and that this should be the overriding criteria.

SC read out the Peterborough application to host the EA Champs and as it was the only application submitted it was confirmed to be successful.

It was agreed that in future if a club hosts an EA Champs then they cannot hold it again the following year.

There were not any applications to host the Region's Regional but both Royston and Braintree were interested in doing so. JW advised that any club wishing to host applications to be sent to JW by Feb 29th.

It was agreed that the Spring Classic will be included as part of the Summer Series. MD suggested as Walpole are running the Spring Classic instead of Trophies we have race plates for the winners.

ACTION 08FEB_07: Contact Walpole Warriors / Jon Curtis to see if he would supply winner race plates instead of trophies for the Spring Classic which Walpole are hosting.

RACE FEES

PT was previously tasked to consider reducing the cost to race a second class at a summer regional, however online registration at each race has to have an allocated a race fee which is why if you are racing 2 bikes you can't pre-register online and have the 2 bike discount and the system can't offer an entry for 20" and race 24" for free.

It was suggested to reduce or not increase younger rider race fees, or reduce the race fee for the younger cruiser classes instead.

PT went through the various pricing options with discounts for younger riders and/or cruisers. After a lengthy discussion on the pros and cons of different pricing structures and wanting to encourage more riders, and also taking into consideration we do offer the cheapest regional racing, PT concluded that overall it did not make much difference income wise but it would make registration more complicated.

JW proposed a vote to keep the race fee the same for all classes but do not give any discount to a second bike.

Proposal: Race Fees to be £10 (£11 with booking fee) for each class online or £15 for each class on the day. No discount for a second bike.

Seven of the 13 people present agreed and the motion was passed.

SUMMER SERIES FORMAT

It was agreed to continue to combine the races for the Males from age 11 to give better racing and experience and this should minimise the numbers who race up.

Therefore the 11s will race with the 12s, and the 13s will race with the 14s but the results will be separated out to provide individual age results for the series.

Lindsey noted that one of the Winter regionals the 13 / 14 year olds were combined with the Seniors and Vets and her 13 son ended up racing with 40 year olds which was unfair. JW said she was unaware of this and would keep an eye out to ensure it doesn't happen again.

DH asked about combining the girl's class with a younger age boys class but it was agreed that this might put off the girls. Those girls that want to have more race competition can always race with the boys either in the actual age or one year younger.

Superclass 17+ male will continue as a payback class.

PT noted that the current point system meant that a rider who wins the final sometimes does not score the highest points that day. If Rider A finished mid pack in his motos and 3rd in his semi but won the final he would score less than Rider B who won all of his motos and his semi but came 5th or 6th in the final. The British National Series system is being updated so this can't happen and the points will be higher for the A finalist winner. It was agreed to adopt the new system in the region when it is launched.

Inter Regionals

The suggestion of Inter Regional Races this year did not come to fruition for the summer, JW will contact the other Regional Chairs to see if there is interest for something for Summer 2017.

ACTION: 08FEB_08: JW to contact the other Regional Chairs to see if there is interest in a 3 or 4 way Inter Regional event in summer 2017.

COMMISSAIRE TRAINING

JW noted that we are desperate need of training new commissionaires for the region. PT noted there has been 4 training sessions set up and all but 1 have been cancelled.

Commissaires are required to run the regions meeting, even 1 more from each club would be enough so the same people do not have to commit to every regional race.

PT believed that Nigel Hampton the Go-Ride and Young Volunteer co-ordinator has identified a need for an older Volunteer course which could be an introduction to the commissaire role.

He is looking to trial this in the East potentially with BMX before expanding to a national programme.

SC asked about Race Admin course, PT said that if there are enough interested he will put one on. JW would need a minimum of 6. JW asked for names and split into definite and maybes.

PT suggested a date of March 5th.

Commissaires Conference Feedback.

JW and PT attended recent conference and suggested that the lack of attendance could be due to the lack of publication and discussion amongst the regional commissaires. It is possible that it may become a requirement for every commissaire to attend every 3 or so years.

WEBSITE

The old website no longer exists, we looked to have a new website created and hosted by 'loopy' but this is not currently active, so we have a third basic site set up by PT which is being used at present.

DH had reviewed the "loopy" website and he was not overly impressed and felt he could do better. PT agreed that the temporary one he put together over 3 nights and paid just for the domain name works just as well as the 'loopy' version.

DH thought he could get do something in 3 or 4 days but due to his current commitments he didn't feel he could do anything immediately.

It was agreed that DH to create a new website and the only cost would be an annual hosting cost and in the meantime we would continue with the interim site.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

JA noted that this winter there was a lot of clashes of dates from the various club races and it would be nice to co-ordinate the races over difference weekends.

DH asked about qualification dispensation for the Euro Champs in 2016 in Italy. He was aware of a number of families that had used the qualification criteria for 2015 and based on that believed they had qualified and booked flights and hotels. However the qualification criteria for 2016 had changed and now included a requirement that the rider must have raced in the National Series and not just the top 16 from the British Cycling Rankings.

DH said the families are in discussion with BC and 1 family has had a response from Rick Clarkson but is not clear on the next step. He said that last year there were dispensations and wild cards but this has been removed for 2016. PT noted that the organisers often can change the qualification criteria and it is best to wait until the qualified riders have been published before assuming qualification for international events. He and JW said they would read through Rick Clarkson's responses to see if they could explain but there is not much else they are able to do.

Date of next meeting: Monday 11 April 2016 at 19.30 at Royston unless another venue is found.