

Present:

	Julie Watts (JW)	Phil Townsend(PT)		
Braintree	Jen Cannons (JC)	Julian Allen (JA)	Garry Long (GLO)	
Royston	Paul Blanche (PB)	Lee Alexander (LA)	Darren Foreman (DF)	
Milton Keynes	Dan Harris (DH)	Guy Lachlan (GL)	Jason Fraser (JF)	
Norwich	Dan Harding (DanH)			
Peterborough	Pete Sargent (PS)			

Apologies

Marc Deveraux	Euan Goodman	Rich Watts	Charlotte ??
Joe Mendez	Mark Tomsett	Jason Abbot	Mike Kitchen
Lydsnesy White			

The minutes from last year were agreed to be correct.

Action from the AGM minutes not completed or discussed later in the meeting.

The proposed London Clubs and East Region event did not take place this year, and unfortunately the London Lee Valley Track facility not used enough although it is on the boarder of our region, mainly down to the prohibitive prices charged and the lack of an actual club based there. However there is a weekly gate session and the London series does use go there.

2) CHAIR REPORT

JW went through her report (see appendix 1) and thanked all the officials and volunteers and riders.

JW noted that the numbers attending the region's events have dropped off slightly, but there were not any real reasons for this, PT wondered if this was due to less 'BC Rankings point hunters' for World qualification at the earlier rounds.

GL mentioned that he saw a notice for planning in East Buckingham for a housing development which included a new BMX track and wondered if British Cycling (BC) would have knowledge of any tracks in development, JW said that the region would support a new club and track. PT is part of the BC facility review and there is a list of likely locations of new track held in BC. PT said that BC would need to be notified but what it needs is for someone locally to take this on and start club and work with developer, so it does not disappear when building starts or turns into a small pump track or play trail.

DH asked if he could have sight of the list as this would help building up the Central region.

ACTION: AGM15_01: PT to forward the list of potential new track builds to Dan Harris.

3) FINANCE REPORT

PT handed out the financial report summarising the income and expenditure for the year. (Appendix 2) He then explained the error that was found midway through the summer series races. This is where the novice entries had been double accounted, meaning some clubs were short in the race funds and others

had too much. PT confirmed that all the clubs that were short have been given a cheque for the funds and the clubs that received too much would not have to pay this back.

GL asked about the County court fine from the previous Treasurer. PT advised that there should have been a total of £2,500 paid. However the last payment was received in July and the total amount paid is £2,300. Not further funds have been received and no notification from the Courts if any more will be.

Over all the region spent £200 more than the income received, but still have £8,000 in the reserve account. Over the last few years the region has proved we can run the series as 'cash neutral' so this is not an issue.

GL asked about the income from each regional round and how they are shared between region and host club. PT said that the costs are taken away from the income and the balance is then split equally between the host club and the region.

LA asked about the Novice riders, it is down to the clubs to produce trophies.

After a discussion it was noted that there is no standard process for novice and it was down to each individual club to arrange. It was agreed that a standard process to be agreed at the next committee meeting.

ACTION: AGM15_02: Novice racing procedure to be discussed at the next committee meeting.

JF asked if a rider races in the winter series, where there is not novice groups can they then race novice in the summer. PT confirmed that come the Summer Series, the rider can then choose which category to race in and shouldn't feel pressured to race Expert until ready.

Going back to the Financial report, PB asked what the £6k cost for the Brits champs was for. PT confirmed, this was for the full price of the shirts, plates, goody bags and yellow stuff, although half of the shirt cost would be reimbursed from the clubs.

JF asked if it is the intention for the region was to continue the current course on the finances. JW's view is it is for the region to decide on how we spend the money.

ACTION: AGM15_03: Strategy to be discussed at next meeting for development and investment in the region, including Coaching, tracks and facilities, riders. To be carried forward and discussed next meeting.

3) ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE

Post	Candidate	Nominated	Seconded	Elected
Chair	Julie Watts	Phil Townsend	Julian Allen	Julie Watts
Vice Chair	Lee Alexander	James Fraser	Julian Allen	Lee Alexander
Treasurer	Phil Townsend	Julian Allen	Jen Cannons	Phil Townsend
Secretary	There were not candidates for the full role of Secretary. The role currently split between MT :Race Official co-ordination JC: Minute taking JA: Communication Officer It was agreed for this to continue for the next year			
Web Master	Dan Harris			

It was agreed that LA to be added as a signature for the bank account and all cheques would need two signatures from the three held.

After a discussion on location and timings of regional meetings it was suggested holding the meetings after regional races, it was felt this was not a good idea. It would be a good idea for the East Region to promote themselves more within the region and maybe attend club meetings.

DH suggested that technology could be used for communication and would be interested in Webmaster and Communications. It was thought that people involved in the sport don't read the website, but use Facebook pages to communicate information, however new people interested in the sport looking for information, often come the website. So it was still important for the website to be up to date and relevant. It was noted that updates made on the website could be automatically feed through to the facebook page.

DH suggested to having the Facebook page an open facebook group, as at the moment it is a facebook 'page' where notifications are posted by JA, with posts onto the page monitored and moderated. It was agreed that the regions Facebook page to be changed to an open group page, with JA, DH and JF as modorators.

JA suggesting having a rider rep and/or junior rider rep on the committee, after a discussion on how this would work it was suggested for each club to have a rider rep and or young rep who then feeds into the regional meeting, by either attending themselves or via their chair or club rep who attends.

ACTION: AGM15_04: Each club to set up a rider rep and a junior rep to feed into the EA meetings.

4) BUDGET FOR 2015

PT advised that currently the Region pay for all race costs upfront and then take the expenditure from the race takings. The Region also books the First Aid (Essex Medics) for all Regional Race meetings. It was agreed for this practice to continue.

Race Fees

The current entry fees are £15 on the day and £11 on the day, which everyone thought was very competitively priced and there was no need to increase the entry fees, it was also suggested to actually reduce the race fees.

After a discussion on what to reduce and by how much the following options were formed.

- 1) Offering 1 price for under 16, over 16 and another for Cruisers.
- 2) The discount for rider two classes to be stopped, but if riding 20" and want to also race cruiser then the second class to could be entered at no additional cost.

PT would need to look into the cost implications of the above to ensure that race meetings were not run at a loss and would have his findings for the next committee meeting.

ACTION: AGM15_05: PT to review the cost implications for offering

- 1) a different price for under and over 16s
- 2) Only charging 1 entry fee to race 20" and Cruiser.

PT noted that there is every chance that in order to race a class at the Brits, you will have to qualify for that class at Regional.

5) SUMMER SERIES FORMAT

Our classes are the same at the British Championships and will remain so for 2016.

Currently everyone registers in their own age group and then ages can then be combined from age 11 upwards if a larger numbers in a class is required. Younger girls are either grouped together or combined with a lower aged boys class.

PT confirmed if a rider rides up an age group in regionals they can race in their own age in the Brits or national series. However if they race up at Nationals they will have to race up at the Britis. Once someone has ridden up in one race at regional they will have to remain in that age group for the rest of the series.

Summer Series Rounds.

5 rounds for the Brits.

7 rounds for ranking and qualify for trophy.

It was noted that there is a large number of riders who only race the required 5 for the Brits and not the 7 for the Trophy.

JC stated that if a rider races novice for the proposed minimum of 3 races they then would be unable to qualify for an expert trophy or have a full number of races to be counted for the end of series. This to be discussed further once the pathway from club through to regional and national levels has been confirmed by British Cycling.

The Prize money for the Payback Class is 50% of the entry fee for the class and it is split 50% 30% and 20%.

It was agreed for the Region to fund the prize pot to £100. If more riders than 10 rider enter this class the prize would rise with the number of entries. The split would stay at 50% 30% and 20%. The idea of having a guaranteed prize pot for the class would encourage more elite level rider to travel and race.

It was agreed to continue with the Golden ticket, which is a randomly chosen class and prize money (£20, £10 & £5) given to the A Finalists placed first, second and third.

Purchase of Trophies

It was agreed that in future any trophies cannot be purchased and are only awarded to those that qualified through attending the race.

It was agreed to see if both the South and Midlands would be interested in hosting an Inter-Regional.

6) COACHING REPORT

JA advised that the regional participated in x3 Regional Schools of Racing, these are run by BC and held by Mark Seamen, and this year they were run in association with the South and worked very well. The clubs nominate their riders and then a total of 10 riders from the nominations are invited to attend.

In additional there was x1 club cluster session held this year, and the Braintree sessions have also been opened up to other clubs. For 2016 he will look to run more club clusters.

JA was pleased to announce for the first time the region entered a full team of riders to represent the EAST at the national RSR.

It was asked if there was the potential to have 1 hour coaching session before or even after regionals, JA thought this could be done, but would be difficult to manage.

JA asked the clubs to forward him a list of their club coaches as the directory on the BC website has some considerable holes in it. He anyone can assist a qualified coach but all sessions must have a BC Level 2 (BMX Specific) qualified coach in attendance.

ACTION: AGM15_06: All clubs to forward to Julian Allen a list of their coaches who run any type of sessions.

7) PROPOSAL FOR NATIONAL BMX COUNCIL

DH went through a proposal for a National BMX Council, this would be an elected body to represent the BMX community with British Cycling. DH said the BMX Commission has no mandate to the membership and is formed and appointed by BC, the commissioners do have to hold the party line and are restricted in voicing their own opinions if the individual members do not agree with the BC decisions. A national elected council would unify the BMX Regions and would give BMX a voice.

DH said he has spoken to South, South West, Midlands, the North and Scotland and all are on board in principle of the idea of a National BMX Council.

PT noted that BMX can have representation in the BC Regional Boards that are already running. The East does have representation (JW and PT) but not all regions do have BMX representation attending the meetings or being part of their BC Regional Board.

JW ask how does the BMX Council fit within BC structure, but as yet DH did not have answer for this. GL and JA suggested to look at the way the current BMX Commission function, and have the appointed experts, as well as voted members.

DH asked for a vote to look at developing a national BMX council, with the membership to be agreed but most likely to have 1 or 2 representation from each region. It was unanimously agreed to go ahead to explore the development of a National BMX Council.

8) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

GL asked about international representation and what would be the criteria going forward.

PT confirmed that the process would be unchanged for 2016.

The 2016 World qualification for Columbia process will stand, however all challenge class will no longer race in the Team GB shirt and a separate Challenge Class shirt will be produced.

The 2016 UEC Euros in Genoa, the qualification criteria remains unchanged.

Entry to the 2016 European rounds remains unchanged and open to all.

It was asked why has the winter age categories changed for this year's winter series? It has meant that instead of each age moving up and then alternating being the younger or older ones in the class, the same riders are the youngest against the same older riders as last year.

PT said there was confusion on age category when registering especially in April when the summer series starts and added it was decided just before the first winter race.

It was expressed that this was not a popular decision and JW said that the winter age categories will be discussed further at the next meeting.

DanH asked why doesn't the EA Champs change location, JW said that it can rotate and locations are discussed at the planning meeting.

JW advised that the BC Regional Development Office has resigned and new one will be appointed.

JW will set the dates for regional meetings next year and circulate.