

EA regional committee meeting

Royston Community Centre

05/08/2019

CHAIR: Lee Alexander (Royston)

MINUTES: Becky GRIDLEY (Braintree)

PRESENT:

Phil TOWNSEND (Royston)

Sarah GILES (Ipswich)

Mark STEELE (Ipswich)

Ashley GOULDING (Peterborough)

Leah PEARSON (Peterborough)

Tammy ALEXANDER (MK)

Sarah JAMES (MK)

Julian ALLEN (Braintree)

Richard WATTS (Braintree)

Dan HARDING (Norwich)

Martin WINK (Norwich)

APOLOGIES: Darren FOREMAN, Alyx FOREMAN, Sam KING, John LILLINGSTONE

Reviews from last meeting: None

Rider rep update: difficult for riders/parents to check pre sheets if they are practising. Not an issue if you pre reg as you check those details when you sign on. Think there is plenty of time to check sheets given that the regionals aren't that busy.

FIRST AID: Have advised Phil that they don't wish to continue after the EA champs (see First Aid below).

There was a strong possibility of a commissaires course – not enough people signed up so it was cancelled.

Lee asked where the EA agenda gets published. Jools puts it on the EA community page and most clubs put it on their on members page for feedback.

OUTSTANDING ACTION ITEMS: None

TREASURERS UPDATE: As per Phil's spreadsheet. A little bit less than we would like but in the right area.

RIDERS REP UPDATE:

Some feedback that it's difficult for riders/parents to check pre sheets if they are practising. Not an issue if you pre reg as you check those details when you sign on. Think there is plenty of time to check sheets given that the regionals aren't that busy.

Pump race was discussed, seemed better in between the motos and semis than between semis and finals. Good idea to keep it going if possible – offer it out to other sponsors/companies. Each club can find a sponsor for the pump race. Same cost each race currently so there's no argument. Maybe Halo would continue sponsoring?

COACHING, CLUB CLUSTER given by Jools

For the winter. Club cluster will continue during the winter as will regional coaching. Some new info has been sent from Dylan. Last session is at Lee Valley in September. The understanding of the process has grown and what is expected of riders.

The development session for the summer – 13th Aug at Derby. Jools went through alot of red tape with Derby branding it as a regional development session, but as numbers have been low to sign up its now a national development session for all regions.

Jools asked why is EA riders are not buying into this level of coaching? Why are the riders not taking up the opportunity? Feedback around EA is minimal. **PROPOSE** a questionnaire or survey why the take up has been so low. The first session was well attended and numbers have dropped off. Ashley said that feedback from Peterborough riders who attended was that 32 was too many. 16 was preferred, Sarah J agreed that it put some riders off. Work days makes it hard for coaching sessions on a week day, people just can't afford more time off on top of nationals etc. Jools felt there is opportunity available but people aren't embracing it. Maybe clubs could consider organising mini buses etc. Jools feels he has spent considerable time organising coaching that was requested. Is it cost, travel expenses, personal? Martin W said it was short notice and that Mark S coaching was already advertised which is why some riders had signed up to that. This was the same for Peterborough.

Dan H asked why did Derby get the Brits but aren't offering open gates/sessions etc for other regions.

Ashley said that the difference in cost from £10 development session to a £25 session was too much on top of travel expenses. If it's the same session why is it costing more? Jools also has travel costs, organising cost, track hire, time spent giving feedback to riders. Mark charges £30..... The EA sessions are £5 cheaper. The same riders aren't attending Marks sessions that attend the EA sessions. The information given by Derby was that session can be only run through Mark so people didn't think any other coaching would be allowed. Jools said it was circulated as early as possible, as widely as possible. There has been more uptake from riders from other regions in the last 18 hours than from EA in 4 weeks.

Jools would like to know what to plan going forward given that numbers dropped off for all sessions after the first one. Tammy said are people just BMX'd out? Too much on, Nationals etc. Dan felt the cost, size of other regions would be a consideration. South have double the number of riders to East.

Jools feels that riders at high level are hunting down every opportunity. There isn't an unlimited budget for most people.

What are we planning for the winter? Jools will put together things to ask in survey and maybe it go out as a regional questionnaire that can be sent to each club and they will get feedback. Probably via SurveyMonkey. Lee suggested using more of the regional coaches and breaking groups down smaller within the sessions. Should we run more sessions with less numbers? Sessions for the younger riders are above and beyond the RSR age.

Should the coaches have a separate meeting to come up with a plan, either one evening or after a race?

QUESTIONS TO ANSWER/DECIDE

- a) **simpsons masks for the parade** – would each club put in £25 to fund them for the parade as we are already over our allocated spend? £153 for 102 masks. Each club to fund and then we will see what age groups masks will stretch too. Likely to be around £25 per club – Lee to purchase.
- b) **riders who have qualified for the Brits:** Only had 6 riders that have asked for dispensation which is good. Apart from 2 the national board have said yes.
- c) **Friday sign on for the Brits:** Confirmed. All regions must submit entries by 8.30 on Saturday morning. You can nominate another club member/rep to sign them on. Phil will generate the list. Suggestion of a regional team manager who will be the only person who can challenge things with officials. Sarah will do sign on sheets. Lee will ask Darren Foreman if he will be team manager.
- d) **First Aid update:** Essex Medics have contacted the region to say they would like to come back. Local events, but happy to do the winter and summer series. Prices to be confirmed.
- e) **Helpers for the brits:** Need one person from each club on the day to be available 11:20 – 11:45 for practise. Split the pens 12 unders, 13 overs.
- f) **Gazebos for Brits:** on last corner, under the tree. Please fit them in as logically as possible.
- g) **Insurance for club races:** Does every club get their race insurance through British Cycling? You need an official and a first aider (separate persons). Ipswich and Braintree are on there. MK only ran 2 club races before their new gate. Norwich didn't hold races this year.
- h) **Winter regional:** last year 4 planned, 3 ran. Norwich would prefer to hold 2 summer regional's. Norwich run loss for a winter regional. Why don't people pay for parking when they cause more damage to the ground? Raffle?

Jools thinks run a series of 4. Oct, Nov, Jan, Feb (miss Dec). Were the numbers down having more summer regionals? Slight drop off but not much. Braintree don't mind not having a winter regional and being a back up in case any of the other clubs come into difficulties through weather. Do we split the money 6 ways at the end of the series? Those 2 clubs that don't hold a race will need to offer help at other clubs.

Bring car park fees back? Only suitable if there's a suitable space to park on. Norwich now get charged £50 by the council to hold a race and the risk assessment for parking is that they have to give 4 marshals. Peterborough that some of the mixing of age groups is having a negative effect on some riders who have now dropped out of regionals because of it. Some classes have to be mixed due to low numbers.

4 voted for having them :

MK – Nov

Norwich - Oct

Peterborough – Jan

Royston - Feb

Agreed there would be a £2 parking charge with a lucky ticket prize.

3rd Sunday of every month.

Lee will ping out dates.

AOB:

EA Champs at Royston. Are we going to run the event as an open champs and are we going to run the usual races without novices? If we leave it open then novices can enter and stay as novices. If we close it then they would have to ride expert going forward.

EA champs will have a bucking bronco (3 x age groups competition) and bouncy castle, cake stall.

If the winner is from another region, they don't get the O1 plate. What about a blank plate with EA champ? Or a shirt with an EA sleeve., Gold, silver/bronze number plate as a replacement to trophies was suggested as no one seems to ride the O1 plate – Phil to look into.

- 8 riders or under for the EA champs then the class gets merged.
- Open event so you can ride any age as long as it's not 2 years above.

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Meetings: Gav suggested that we just have one large meeting and other items that need decisions made via email. Could we reduce to quarterly and make the 4th one the AGM? Agreed.

Dan asked that we please bear in mind Dangers offer of a plate, shirt and side plate next year. The post went up too late this year but £12 for a plate, side plate and shirt.

Anything on the London region for next year? They have been asked to put a submission forward.

Winter Series: What are we charging for winter regionals? Cost on the day once people decide on the day due to weather – is it too much? Last year was £12.50 online and then £20 on the day. Leave it the same this year. Stick with the winter classes as per last year.

Are we merging girls and boys? Yes. Girls can't ride down an age. You don't need to apply to ride up an age at winter regionals. Events in between winter races were not popular. No skills challenge.

Transponders for 2020: Not enough money in the EA pot. Clubs can buy their own. Could the region buy the decoder and clubs buy the transponders? Wait and see what the decision is regarding transponders at nationals. Hopefully expected around end of September so can discuss at the next meeting.

Club promotion:

Ipswich have raised 90k towards their new track and are liaising with the council.

Peterborough club race series has been better attended this year. More people going to the Brits this year than previous years. Lots of enthusiasm for Brits, Nationals etc.

Norwich Go ride event. Badly advertised but worth doing already being discussed for Norwich Council to hold another one next year.

MK lots attending Tuesday night gates. Club races around 50-55 attending. Possibly popular as it's on a Friday. Still coaching being offered. Most sessions are full. Lots of enquiries through the club website.

Braintree are going through a funding application for £10k to re tarmac first corner. Looking at a club house through BC funding. Negative – Towerlands are still looking for planning for 770 houses. If successful we will never be able to hold a national again due to parking. Dropped 2 summer rounds due to weather, well attending. Regional went well yesterday. Worlds coverage was great for Freia and promoting the club.