

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Scottish Cyclocross Association

Date: 9th February 2020, 3pm

Venue: Glentress

Present:

Existing Committee:

Paul Davies, Stuart Green (Secretary) (by telephone), James Melville, Howard Perkins (Acting Chair), Andy Strathdee, Graeme Warren

Attendees:

Jamie Corr, Scott Smith, Katie Turbitt, Colin Shearer, Caroline Harvey, Ali Dow, Matt Smith, Steven Turbitt, Jim Brewer, Pete Shuttleworth

Apologies:

Morven Brown, Colin Chisholm, Davie Graham (Chair), Jammy Johnston, Jac Marquis, Keith Stocker, Roslynn Newman

1. Minutes

Minutes of the previous AGM were approved without amendment.

2. Chair's Report

Howard read the Chair's report. The Chair noted that Jac Marquis was stepping down from the Committee after serving for a number of years, including as Treasurer. Thanks were also extended to Jammy Johnston who has announced that he is stepping back from commentating after many years as a recognisable voice at cyclocross. Thanks were also extended to all those involved in putting on the series, including Scottish Cycling, Mark Young and of course race organisers.

It was noted that there were fewer riders in the most recent Series, but that riders are more active (attending more races on average).

It was noted that after the late finish to the season in early 2019 and the resultant late AGM, the return to the more regular calendar for the 19/20 season and therefore the earlier AGM would hopefully allow for better scheduling of race dates for the 20/21 season. The Chair invited anyone with any queries or comments to get in touch.

3. Treasurer's Report

As incoming Treasurer (see below), Andy Strathdee summarised the accounts from details passed to him by Jac Marquis. The key points to note were:-

- There are known outstanding costs for stakes (£140) and engraving.
- The major annual cost is to Mark Young for timing services.
- There is a loss of £772 for the year.
- The cash at bank after liabilities is in the region of £7,000.
- It was emphasised that a significant balance is required to support cashflow due to delays in receiving race levies whereas the timing standing charge is paid at the start of the season.
- The loss is not a sustainable position and requires attention.
- The cash balance was built up in the past in part from merchandise sales and this is something which could be looked at again.
- It is noted that the wrong levy form was often sent out, which is in part responsible for delays in levies being paid (or being paid incorrectly).

4. Election of Committee

- Jac Marquis's resignation was accepted by the Committee.
- The remaining (existing) Committee members put themselves forward for continued appointment.
- Andy proposed himself for the Treasurer's role. No other candidates came forward and the nomination was seconded by Howard and approved by the meeting.
- Stuart proposed Roslynn Newman as a Committee member. The appointment was seconded and approved.
- Katie Turbitt offered to join the Committee. The appointment was seconded and approved.
- It was noted that the new appointments took the Committee beyond the number suggested in the new constitution (see below) but were permissible under the current (largely unwritten) arrangements. It was agreed that the draft constitution be amended accordingly. It was noted that the committee must be careful that there is no bias by any particular club. It was agreed that this was not an issue at present.

5. Adoption of New Constitution

- It was noted that the Committee is presently an unincorporated association and therefore could not be sued, but that individual committee members would have personal liability.

- A new constitution was proposed by Howard, following work by Colin, Howard, Stuart and others. This reflected the current operation of the committee but was viewed as a potential interim solution pending further development in the coming year(s).
- The following amendments were proposed to the circulated draft:-
 - i. The provision for an Honorary President should be an optional role and also allow for more than one individual, so the wording should be amended to “Honorary President(s) (Optional)”
 - ii. The number of Ordinary Members should be amended to “at least 2 and no more than 7”
 - iii. Line (j) in the “Aims and Objectives” should be amended to include “assisting others in organising/arranging [...] activities” to better reflect the work of the Committee.
- The Constitution (as amended) was unanimously adopted.

6. SCX Membership

- Paul put forward a short paper on a possible alternative membership structure:-
 - A structure with all riders as “members” would give a stronger voice within Scottish Cycling for the Association.
 - This membership could take the form of an annual fee for series riders (at £15 for example, as seen at Track League), with riders getting a set race number for the full season following payment of the membership fee.
 - The proposal would need to be discussed with Mark Young, but he had previously indicated that in principle such arrangements could work.
 - The arrangement could reduce waste (envelopes, pins etc.)
 - Concern was indicated about a high membership fee being a potential barrier to new riders or riders who only enter one race (c. 35% of riders in 2019). The sentiment was generally that a lower fee (£5 suggested) to purchase a fixed number might be acceptable but that this could perhaps be put in place without the need for a membership structure.
 - It was noted that cyclocross is generally still seen as good value and that a modest increase in race costs (to no more than £20) would likely be tolerated by most riders. It was also suggested that including a levy for the youngest age groups would also be accepted, given they benefit from the same timing service.
 - It was agreed that the alternative structure would be taken forward by the Committee for further research and discussion by mid 2020. It was agreed that the Committee had a mandate from the AGM to implement changes to the use of race numbers/levies as it thought best, but that it was further noted that any changes to membership structure would require an EGM.

7. AOCB

• Series Handbook / Guidelines

There was support for the creation of a race handbook to ensure consistency across all series races, which would be of benefit to organisers and racers. Points discussed were:-

- i. It might be appropriate to now move Juniors to race with V40, given that V50+ is now the biggest category. This would also remove the issues of some V60/V50 having short races after being lapped by much faster Juniors.
- ii. A set race day timetable should be produced (with safety / weather the only reason to move away from set timings). This should include adequate time for practice laps, which are required for safety.
- iii. The subject of separate finishes for different age categories in the same race was discussed. This would resolve the occasional anomalies that can happen when slower age category riders are stopped before they had been lapped by their age category leader. However, it was felt that it would introduce too many other complications such as finishing holding pens, as well as being very hard to do manually if the electronic timing was not available for any reason. It was agreed that the current single finish would continue.
- iv. Shoulder numbers could perhaps be removed (to reduce cost and waste).
- v. The U12 races should have a random gridding (with names drawn from a hat at sign-on?), no podiums (with perhaps all racers on the podium at the end of the race for a photo opportunity) and no series standings. This was believed to be required by BC guidelines. The U12 format should be consistently applied across series races.
- vi. Noted that support is available from Scottish Cycling but that this is not accessed by all organisers and the Committee should establish what is available and provide details in a race organiser’s handbook.

• Re-branding and Merchandise

It was agreed that a re-branding should be considered to bring the logo up to date and allow for new merchandise to be sold to improve income.

• Re-use of Course tape

There was general agreement on trying to reduce single use plastics. It was noted that some events use hose reels to collect the tape after the race. It was suggested that the Association could purchase some hose reels alongside the stakes it already owns. It was also noted that in some cases (e.g. Mull) conditions meant that collecting the tape was challenging. The committee agreed to consider the idea as part of the Series Handbook / Guidelines.

• 2020 Series

Noted that Davie is liaising with potential organisers and that all series races would be before Christmas. Where possible, northern National Trophy races and the Dublin World Cup would be avoided.

- **Race Commentator**

Suggestions were requested for a new race commentator. Matt Smith offered to commentate, ideally with another party alongside and to cover when he was racing / warming up. It was noted that Fiona Walker has commentated in the past.