

Minutes of the Scottish Cyclocross Association Annual General Meeting on 2nd February 2021, 7:30pm. Held via Zoom.

1. Present

Honorary President: Jammie Johnston

Chair: Davie Graham

Treasurer: Andy Strathdee

Secretary: Howard Perkins

Committee Members: James Melville, Colin Chisholm, Paul Davies, Graeme Warren, Katie Turbitt

Attendees: Alan Irving, Andy Inglis, Andy Martin, Andy McDonald, Barry McCleery, Brian Corr, Brydie McLearnon, Clive Sharman, David Mason, Euan Hamilton-Rigg, Fiona Walker, Fraser Johnston, Gordon Mackenzie, Graeme Cross, Graeme Robb, Graham Brown, "Guest", Helen Gorman, Jack Peasgood, Jim Brewer, Jim Cameron, Jonathan Herbert, Julian Howell, Katy Carrick-Anderson, Keith Stocker, Louise Gibson, Martin Harris, Morven Brown, Paul Bailey, Pete Bentley, Russell Aitken, Sean Webster, Stephen Crawford, Steve Macluskie, Stuart Green

2. Apologies

Kirsty Ellis.

3. Previous Minutes

Minutes of the previous AGM were approved without amendment. Proposed by Davie Graham and seconded by Colin Chisholm.

4. Chair's Report

Good evening everyone.

It's great to see so many of you here, and also its fantastic to see you all again. Like you all I've missed racing and having the craic with you.

My report this year, whilst having no racing to comment on, hopefully shows that we have been working away planning for this season coming.

Firstly, I'd like to thank both Stuart and Roslyn for their help this year on the committee until personal circumstances made them resign. There is a proposal that the committee should expand the ordinary members from 7 to up to 8 and it would be good if this was accepted so that we can further diversify away from the Male vet 50 centric make up we have at the moment.

The new website is live at www.scottishcx.org.uk and all our updates can be found there first.

We have proposed dates for this year's series

September	19th	SCX Round 1
	26th	3 Peaks and NT Derby
October	3rd	SCX Round 2
	10th	NT Milnthorpe
	17th	SCX Round 3
	24th	NT Callendar Park
November	31st	SCX Round 4
	7th	-
	14th	SCX Round 5
	21st	NT Sunderland
December	28th	Scottish Champs
	6th	World Masters at Ipswich
	12th	SCX Round 6 / NT Gravesend

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We are planning to have a six race series with the Scottish Champs at the end of November. No-one knows if this will be possible, probable, or if it will turn out to be pie in the sky but we feel we would be negligent as a committee if we don't plan to have events this year. There are so many uncertainties involved in putting on the series and individual events that we have no real idea of what the series will look like until much later in the year. We are on the lookout for organisers who would be willing to hold an event this season coming. Obviously, this would be very tentative at the moment and until things are clearer we won't publish a final calendar, so if anyone is keen to hold an event please get in touch with me to discuss.

The National Trophy is based mainly in the North this season with races at Derby, Falkirk, Cumbria and Sunderland so we are hoping that a lot of racers will have a go at these, and with the World Masters at Ipswich we are hoping this will attract a record number of Scottish racers to go down and hopefully come back with a stripey jersey or two.

This is a big year for cyclocross coming up, we don't know if missing a season due to Covid will permanently affect numbers, possible ongoing restrictions going into the season, will we have organisers, volunteers, racers? I can't say, but what does give me hope is that 50 of us are here on a Tuesday night in February to discuss cyclocross, to share our passion and do our best to bring about events this coming September.

Lastly, I would like to give notice that it is my intention to stand down as chair at next year's AGM, as I've said before I think it isn't healthy for any organisation to have one person in the same position for too long.

5. Treasurer's Report

As might be expected, there's almost nothing to report this year as there have been no races.

In the year to March 2020, there was a fairly substantial loss, mainly due to the wrong levy form used at a couple of races. This has been partly offset by Scottish Cycling agreeing to a reduced levy on one of the races. The timing adjustments are for payments that haven't gone through yet and the final position at the end of March 2021 should be a balance of £7k.

This is a fairly healthy balance but it is my view, and I believe shared by many on the committee, that we should aim to maintain the balance at this level. We should therefore look for future series to pay their way and break even. There is a lot of uncertainty around next season, not least that there will be a new timing contract, and we will need to look at the numbers carefully when we get closer to the season.

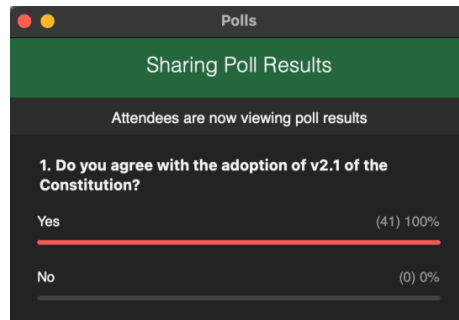
Year to 31 March	2020	2021	2022
P&L			
Income			
Levies received	8948.50	0	
Sales	0	0	
Donations	0	0	
Interest	5.65	3.69	
Total Income	8954.15	3.69	0
Costs			
Timing payments	2800.00	0	
SC levies	6736.86	0	
Annual affiliation	0	99.00	
Stakes	144.95		
Engraving	10.00		
Website/email	74.79	159.78	144.00
AGM	0	0	
Total Costs	9766.60	258.78	144.00
Profit (loss)	-812.45	-255.09	-144.00
Timing adjustments		-1310.47	-258.78
Closing cash	8569.39	7003.83	6601.05

6. Adoption of Revised Constitution

The committee proposed some updates to the Constitution that had been posted prior to the AGM and were summarised as follows:-

- Increase the maximum number of ordinary members from 7 to 8 to allow increased diversity.
- Require nominations for the committee to be received 7 days prior to the AGM.
- Set out the way that elections are held at the AGM.

There were no questions and an online poll passed the new Constitution with the required 2/3rds majority.



7. Election of New Committee

Davie handed over to Graeme to run through the election process.

Graeme noted that all committee members, including office bearers are elected every year. All the current committee were standing for re-election. There were 3 additional nominations to join the committee. There were no additional nominations made during the meeting and as a result, there was no requirement to hold a vote. The election was carried out in the following sequence with all candidates being returned unopposed.

Role	Nomination	Proposed	Seconded
Chair	David Graham	Howard Perkins	Colin Chisholm
Secretary	Howard Perkins	Andy Strathdee	Graeme Warren
Treasurer	Andy Strathdee	David Graham	Katie Turbitt
Ordinary Committee Members	Colin Chisholm Paul Davies James Melville Katie Turbitt Graeme Warren Keith Stocker Kirsty Ellis Helen Gorman	Colin Chisholm Paul Davies James Melville Katie Turbitt Graeme Warren Keith Stocker Kirsty Ellis Helen Gorman	Graeme Warren Graeme Warren Graeme Warren Graeme Warren Davie Graham Stuart Green (+ others) Katie Turbitt (+ others) Davie Graham (+ others)

It was noted that the role of Honorary President was a non-elected post that was appointed by the Committee as appropriate.

8. Update from Scottish Cycling

Morven Brown introduced herself as the Events Officer for Scottish Cycling and the primary point of contact for the Scottish Cyclocross Association.

Morven set out the position from Scottish Cycling regarding the return to racing, which applies to all forms of racing. At the moment, we are in "stay at home" and all racing is suspended. There is no end date at the moment, but when we return to levels, there is a guidance document issued by Scottish Cycling in line with Scottish Government advice and covers racing, club activity and personal cycling activity. This is

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currently located at <https://www.britishcycling.org.uk/scotland/article/20200313-Scottish-Cycling-Coronavirus-COVID19-Guidance-0>

The key message for racing is that at level 2 and below:-

- Group size is restricted to 30 at any one time on the course.
- Overall numbers, including organisers at an event is 200.

At level 3 there is only time trial format for adults and at level 4 no racing.

Scottish Cycling plan to hold webinars in due course as the situation unfolds.

9. Update Callendar Park National Trophy Event

Fraser Johnston, Head Coach at Falkirk Junior Bike Club, gave an update on progress with planning for the National Trophy event at Callendar Park on 24th October 2021.

The inspiration came from the success of the event at Irvine and planning started before the Covid pandemic started. There is therefore a lot of trepidation about what will unfold, but planning is continuing as if the event will go ahead. The motivation for Falkirk Junior Bike Club is to play its part in developing the sport, both for the riders by bringing the NT race to Scotland, but also for raising the awareness of cycling within the local community. As part of the event planning with Falkirk Council, there will be a permanent cyclocross coaching venue developed at the west end of Callendar Park (where the golf course used to be) from 2022 onwards.

Within the Club Committee, there is a sub-group that will have 5 separate workstreams, Partners, Coordination, Volunteers, Finance, Community Engagement and Sport. There is a lot of scenario planning, based on 3 models; the lessons learned from Irvine, the steps Westmoreland had to take to hold their NT race last year with Covid restrictions and event cancellation due to Covid.

In the meantime, preparations will continue and there will be a drive for volunteers from the summer onwards and several local businesses have already stepped forward through their corporate social responsibility commitments.

The meeting expressed its appreciation to Fraser for taking this on.

10. AOCB

Race Commentator

Davie reminded the meeting that "the legend that is Jammie" has retired and is no longer available. Race organisers will need a new commentator for their events.

Event Timing

The previous timing contract with Mark Young was only for three years and the SCX Association would have been going out to tender for the 2021 season anyway even before Mark was forced to close his business due to the pandemic. The difficulty at this stage is that we don't even know how many races, if any, there will be.

Martin Harris explained he had worked with Mark from when the MyLaps system was introduced into Scotland and knew the system inside out. One challenge we face is the number of transponders. There were 500 available to SCX between Mark, Fife Cycle Park and Martin. These are leased from MyLaps on an annual basis. Martin has 100 transponders and can renew the lease on these as and when racing starts, but this leaves a shortfall, although the number of transponders required will depend on the level at which racing returns. Scottish Cycling do have some transponders but there is a question whether their battery condition is still serviceable. Arranging additional transponders is perfectly achievable but there is the associated cost.

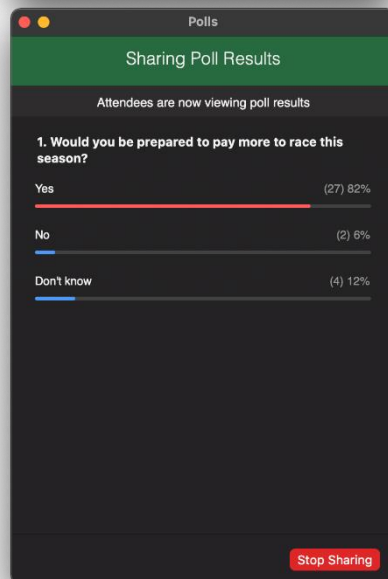
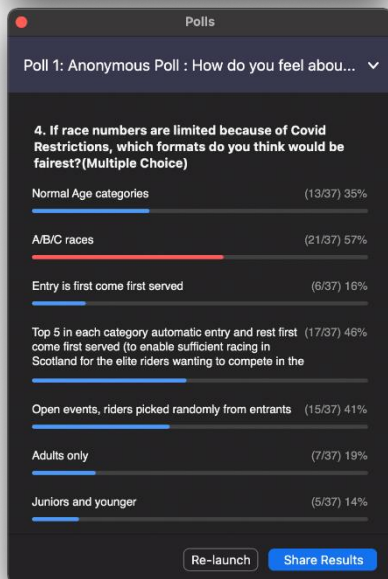
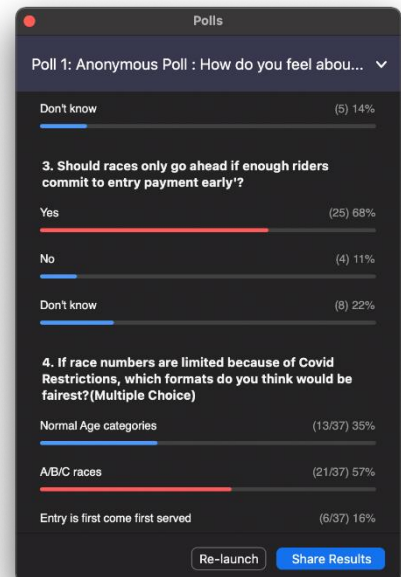
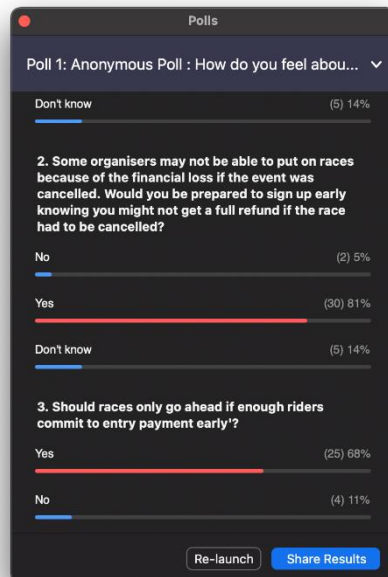
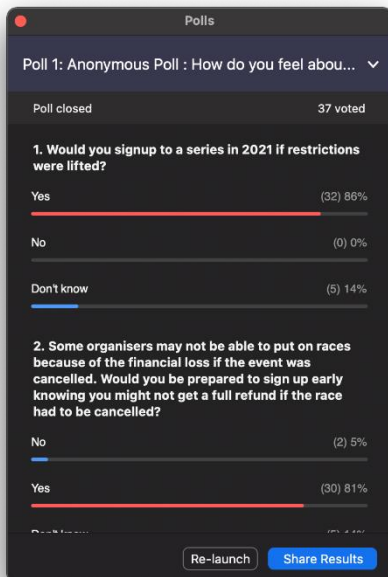
Return of Racing

The meeting moved to a more general discussion about the return of racing and the different forms that it could take. Issues covered were:-

- If numbers are restricted to 200, which could be 6 races of 30, how would race entry be decided?

- What flexibility would there be in race organisation within the series? Scottish Cycling are keen to be flexible and Morven suggested that non-ranking events were a useful option that allowed a lot of flexibility within the parameters of safety and fairness.
- Timescale for race permits. Morven indicated that 4 weeks would probably be achievable.
- Would "proof of vaccination" be required for racers? This is not currently part of Scottish Cycling planning.
- Can organisers put on an event for the race entry fees from only 150/180 riders?
- Was early commitment from riders to allow events to be organised on the basis that only partial refunds would be given if the event was cancelled a practical proposal?
- Are regional races easier/cheaper to organise?
- Control of Spectators to stay within numbers. Morven commented that the spirit of the 200 guidance recognised organisers had no control over members of the public who would be at the venue.
- The importance and requirement for Covid risk assessments.
- Opportunities for sponsorship to underwrite the series.

During these discussions, a number of polls were run to gauge the feeling of the meeting.



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The conclusion from the discussions and the results of the polls is that:-

- there is a strong desire to race next season.
- People are open to changes in format and organisation for racing to go ahead safely.
- People are prepared to pay more if necessary.

Davie thanked the meeting for all the ideas put forward and welcomed any other ideas in the months ahead. They would all be considered by the new Committee.

11. Closing Remarks

Jammie said that it had been a fruitful meeting with a lot to think about. He commended Davie for chairing the meeting in very difficult times without having a crystal ball to see the future. He also complimented Davie for his interview on Black Diamond Radio promoting our sport. He thanked everyone for participating in the AGM.

He had attended some time-trials back in September and the enjoyment of being at a bike race was like being given a feel-good tablet. In closing, Jammie hoped that everyone stayed Covid free and that we would all be back at bike racing soon.

Davie closed the meeting just after 9pm.

12. Meeting "Chat"

The following table contains the zoom chat that ran throughout the meeting.

Martin Harris:	You can use the chat box to put hand up?
Graeme Warren:	Yes, as Martin says, anyone who can't raise hands can shout here and we'll try to spot it.
Martin Harris:	AoCB - Timing was mentioned. I hope to be in a position to offer my services to cover timing/results.
Katie Turbitt:	It might be a good idea just to explain the position re timing for those that aren't aware.
Martin Harris:	Timing has been provided in the past by Mark Young. Unfortunately he had to wind his business up, a victim off the Covid. I've worked closely with Mark for a number of years and am the second most experienced operator of the MyLaps system in Scotland.
David Mason:	Can we still keep our Jammy name?
Graeme Warren:	🤔
Sean Webster:	Any plans for a Vet 60 category?
Andy Inglis:	MoX will but very dependant on what numbers can race v costs
David Mason:	Could SCX help MoX with shortfall?
Julian Howell:	Vet 80 category - here we come!
Euan Hamilton-Rigg:	Is there a limit on max race entry fees? I'm sure folks would pay more if it meant they got some racing in.
Andy Inglis:	Can we focus on some bigger sponsorship? Companies will have health and wellbeing at the forefront going forward
Brydie McLearnon:	Could riders be asked to marshall one other race and therefore cover the most of the marshall numbers in rider numbers?
Graeme Robb:	I'd be surprised if you could break even with 150 racers at £20 with new first aid , timing and extra toilet facilities. More like £25-30
Fraser Johnston:	I'd encourage the committee to consider approaching youth clubs to pick up the youth/junior activity if that makes SCX events more viable for adults etc. Could explore whether youth clubs could pool together to share some costs. We at Falkirk would be up for looking into that
Martin Harris:	I like that idea Fraser.

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Jim Brewer:	That makes sense to me @Fraser Johnston. (Jumpers for goalposts etc.)
Colin Chisholm:	its one of the options we've started looking at
David Mason:	Fraser would that be in addition to the SCX races?
Fraser Johnston:	Good Q David - perhaps for one year only there is SCX Youth and SCX Adult series - helps to get round the 200 number a bit
Barry McCleery:	more grassroots racing in general may be the way forward if we can race this year
Colin Chisholm:	Fraser, the youth races would need to be on a different day
Fraser Johnston:	Yeah that's what I meant
Fraser Johnston:	(Colin)
Graeme Robb:	Youth races could run the NT weekends.
Louise Gibson:	Another issue with having children/juniors racing is that they need to have a parent present, do these numbers then come off the 200 aswell?
Brian Corr:	Could the empty weekend before the Scottish Champs be used to a Youth Downward event, allowing more riders across all categories if number restrictions are still in force.
Barry McCleery:	good point Louise
Barry McCleery:	the wessex league also put on a few races last year
Brydie McLearnon:	I know I'd be happy to pay more per event given the restrictions on numbers this year. Would it be worth doing a poll while everyone is here tonight?
Martin Harris:	Interesting point Keith. Regional Races, top riders from each Region go to Champs?
Julian Howell:	CXNE at Foxberry ran very well - 30 per age group; one practice lap; no queue for sign on; turn up - race - go home. Private venue.
Steve Macluskie:	Increased costs may not necessarily come from individual riders pockets. Lots of clubs with reserves. Maybe it's the year of clubs subsidising their racing members to keep events alive.
Euan Hamilton-Rigg:	Yes, agree the priority should be having some races rather than none - so the scale / locality should be tailored to allow this to happen.
Howard Perkins:	Can do a poll on specific question of extra cost...
Jim Cameron:	DOUBLE
Jim Cameron:	They've saved on last year
Jim Cameron:	Can I confirm is it max 30 riders per race?
Jim Cameron:	If so are we curtailing the series races by just saying A/B/C
Louise Gibson:	there have been races on already under covid conditions and I am sure that they, particularly Westmorland, would be happy to share their risk assessment etc...
Morven Brown:	Hi all - Scottish Cycling COVID guidance and restriction levels can be found here: https://www.britishcycling.org.uk/scotland/article/20200313-Scottish-Cycling-Coronavirus-COVID19-Guidance-0
Keith Stocker:	Martin Harris and I have a regional/local level race plan to be conducted under Covid restrictions. We can use that as part of scenario planning. Which is the obvious next stage for the committee. I've got some existing work to contribute to this at the next committee meeting.
Keith Stocker:	Jumpers for goalposts. (safe goalposts)
Paul Davies:	Thanks everyone for really good ideas and a really useful discussion. Lets hope we all see each other at a race venue soon !
Alan Irving:	Good point about regional/youth races as a model for smaller events. Haddo Dirt Crit (Ythan CC) is another good example.



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Katie Turbitt:	Thanks for joining us tonight folks. Make sure to check out the refreshed website scottishcx.org.uk or get in touch at hello@scottishcx.org.uk if you'd like to discuss anything further.
Davie Graham:	Jammy is on the radio tomorrow night