

Minutes of the Scottish Cyclocross Association Annual General Meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2022, 7:00pm. Held via Zoom.

#### 1. Present

Honorary President: Jammie Johnston
Chair: Davie Graham
Treasurer: (Andy Strathdee – see apologies)
Secretary: Howard Perkins
Committee Members: James Melville, Colin Chisholm, Paul Davies, Graeme Warren, Katie Turbitt, Keith Stocker, Kirsty Ellis.

**Attendees**: Ailsa Curtis, Alex McDonald, Andrew Martin, Clive Sharman, Craig Duncan, Dave Ogden, Fiona Walker, Fraser Johnston, Helen Gorman, Ian Clunie, James Woodbridge, Jim Brewer, Jim Foulis, Jonny Lee, Kathy Gilchrist, Lesley-Anne Robertson, Louise Smith, Martin Graham, Neil Raitt, Neil Scott, Patricia Johnston, Pete Matthews, Sam Long, Sean McDonald, Steve Macluskie

NOTE: Some people may have temporarily joined the meeting and not been in the list captured above.

#### 2. Apologies

Andy Strathdee, Phil Darby, Pete Bentley.

#### 3. Previous Minutes

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

#### 4. Chair's Report

Davie Graham gave the following Chair's report:-

"Good evening and welcome to the Scottish Cyclocross AGM, it's good to see so many of you in attendance.

As I've said before, this is my final Chair's report (but definitely this time), so I would like to take the opportunity of thanking everyone who has helped cyclocross over the years in Scotland. It has been a real pleasure but I feel now is the time to hand the baton over to someone else.

I would like to thank Helen for her time on the committee until she had to stand down for personal reasons. The committee is still lacking in diversity though we have lost one of the male vet 50s, but only because they're now 60...

Again Covid played havoc with our planning but things do seem to be settling down a bit and I am looking forward to hearing Keith's outline plans for next season, I won't drop any spoilers but we MUST get back to holding a series.

It was good to see the National Trophy at Falkirk this year and I am glad that it is staying for another year and it will be better if we can get even more Scottish riders racing at it.

It is also great that we have a World Champion who lives in Scotland but even more important is the crop of younger riders who are making a mark on the big stage and this is testament to all the hard work everyone has put in over the years.

So once again, many, many thanks to everyone who has pinned a number on and helped in any capacity over the years and let's keep it going for a good few years yet.

See you on the start line!

Crosslove."



### 5. Treasurer's Report

Unfortunately, Andy was at a campsite with an internet connection that was unable to sustain a connection. The headline information presented to the meeting was as follows:-

"There was a bit of income from race levies but this was limited as most races were non-ranking and there was no series. However, costs were also minimal and were more or less covered. The current bank balance is approx £7000 but the Club affiliation and web expenses are about to be paid."

#### Post meeting update:-

Since the last AGM a timing contract was put out to tender and agreed with Pedal Motion. This was used by a significant number of the races, but as there was no series, the costs and any associated levies did not go through the Association's accounts.

We also received very generous support from Baillie Gifford, not only to provide support for the National Championships, but also to underwrite any potential losses suffered by race organisers due to Covid. As it turned out, this support was not needed and will be returned to Baillie Gifford as agreed.

There is a lot of uncertainty around next season, not least the nature of racing in Scotland after a 2 year absence of the series, and we will need to look at the numbers carefully as the year goes on.

Year to 31 March	2020	2021	2022
P&L			
Income			
Levies received	8948.50	0	364.23
Sales	0	0	0
Donations	0	0	0
Interest	5.65	4.88	3.16
Other	0	200.00	0
Total Income	8954.15	204.88	367.39
Costs			
Timing payments	2800.00	0	
SC levies	6736.86	0	
Annual affiliation	0	0	50.00
Stakes	144.95		
Engraving	10.00		
Website/email	74.79	159.78	196.89
AGM	0	0	
Total Costs	9766.60	159.78	246.89
Profit (loss)	-812.45	45.10	120.50
Timing adjustments		-1409.47	-159.78
Closing cash	8569.39	7205.02	7165.74

The Profit and Loss for the Association is as follows:-

The bank transactions for the last year are as follows:-

Date	Transaction	Credit	Debit	Balance
01/01/2021	2021 Opening Balance			7,003.83
15/03/2021	Compensation from RBS	200.00		7,203.83
16/03/2021	Interest	1.19		7,205.02
29/06/2021	Interest	0.94		7,205.96
12/08/2021	Website 2020/21		159.78	7,046.18
12/08/2021	Website 2021/22		196.89	6,849.29
01/09/2021	Club Affiliation		50.00	6,799.29
10/09/2021	Baillie Gifford Deposit	3600.00		10,399.29
15/09/2021	Interest	0.92		10,400.21



Date	Transaction	Credit	Debit	Balance
19/11/2021	Levies - Fife	230.95		10,631.16
19/11/2021	Payment to SC Champs - BG Prize money		600.00	10,031.16
20/12/2021	Levies - Dundee	133.28		10,164.44
30/12/2021	Interest	1.30		10,165.74
31/12/2021	2021 Closing Balance			10,165.74

NOTE: the balance currently includes £3000 to be returned to Baillie Gifford at end of season.

## 6. Election of New Committee

In line with the constitution, nominations to the committee closed a week prior to the AGM. There was only one nomination for each of the office bearers. All the current committee were standing for re-election and there was one additional nomination to join the committee. The total nominations were within the numbers allowed by the constitution and as a result, there was no requirement to hold a vote. The election of the new committee was therefore as follows:-

Name	Current	Nomination	Proposed by	Seconded by
Davie Graham	Chairman	Member	Howard Perkins	Andy Strathdee
Andy Strathdee	Treasurer	Treasurer	Howard Perkins	Graeme Warren
Howard Perkins	Secretary	Chairman	Davie Graham	Graeme Warren
Graeme Warren	Member	Secretary	Howard Perkins	Davie Graham
Paul Davies	Member	Member	Graeme Warren	James Melville
Colin Chisholm	Member	Member	Paul Davies	Graeme Warren
Katie Turbitt	Member	Member	Colin Chisholm	Paul Davies
Keith Stocker	Member	Member	Katie Turbitt	Colin Chisholm
Kirsty Ellis	Member	Member	Keith Stocker	Katie Turbitt
James Melville	Member	Member	Kirsty Ellis	Keith Stocker
Ian Clunie	-	Member	Davie Graham	Howard Perkins

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

At this point Davie handed the role of chair to Howard.

Howard thanked Davie and reminded the meeting that Davie was a founding member of the Association and was the chair for many years. When it was struggling a few years back, he took over the reins again to get it back on its feet. Davie had wanted to step down again a couple of years ago but stayed on to face the challenges of the Covid pandemic. His passion for and commitment to cyclocross is fantastic. Scottish Cyclocross has a lot to thank him for and Howard invited the meeting to join in a round of applause in appreciation.

# 7. Scottish Cycling Springboard Fund

The opportunity was taken to highlight Scottish Cycling's Springboard Fund. This is an initiative to support the recovery of cycling events in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly by encouraging underrepresented groups to participate. Funding of up to £1200 is available. It was noted that this was a last-minute reminder as the deadline for applications is  $6^{th}$  March 2022.



#### 8. 2021 Season Race Statistics

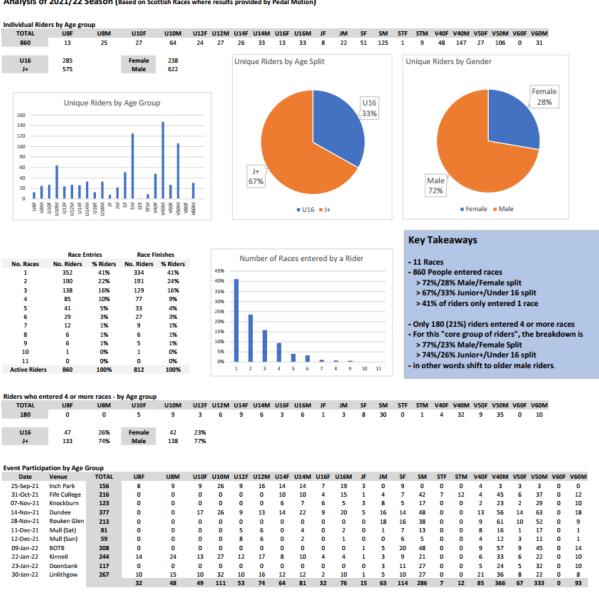
Given that a year ago we did not know if there would be any racing, the fact that more than a dozen races took place is a good outcome. However, it was not a "normal" season and there was no SCX Series. Howard presented an analysis of the 2021 season based on a subset of 11 races (events where timing had been provided by Pedal Motion).

The key points are highlighted in the blue box below.

The overall picture is that participation is heavily weighted towards the male and older age categories. This is not ideal and hopefully will improve next season.

The data behind these figures is in a spreadsheet that will be added to the SCX website for anybody to view if interested.

**Post Meeting Note:** Following the AGM it was noticed that some riders had been categorised with the wrong gender in the spreadsheet. The figures below show a slightly higher female participation than that given at the meeting, although the overall conclusions remain the same.



#### Season Summary Analysis

Analysis of 2021/22 Season (Based on Scottish Races where results provided by Pedal Motion)



#### 9. Update on the 2022 Series

Keith presented a summary of the committee's thinking on the 2022-23 Season. He stressed that this was not a signed/sealed package and we were not expecting to have a fully planned season by the end of the AGM. We were hoping for a good discussion to put us all on track for a really joined up 2022-23 season in Scotland next year.

Keith noted that many people at the meeting had been at last year's AGM and then also taken part in a series of Organiser meetings where we had tried to pick a way through the challenges of the pandemic. He noted that for some riders there had been a lot of racing this year but that we hadn't been able to join it up as a series.

Looking forward, the first thing that the committee wants to achieve is a Scottish series. The amount of effort that was put into organising the races last year was fantastic and that if it could be collated it would form a great foundation for a series next year. The second thing that the committee wants to support and promote is ranking points for a number of Scottish races. Although this is more important for some people than others, the committee feels that to have a joined-up series with ranking points is important to promote the development of cyclocross, which is ultimately the purpose of the Association.

Beyond these two objectives, the committee doesn't want to be prescriptive as to what an event should look like. We want to support as many event organisers as we can, and we don't want to say that to be a series race it has be for example "7 races with 500 people". We want to support anyone who is keen to put on an event, in order to get the best opportunities for everyone to race in Scotland.

Keith noted that once again there would be a National Trophy race in Scotland and that in fact, a large number of the National Trophy races were in the north and that the British Champs were going to be in Cumbria. This provided a good opportunity for people who wanted to ride at that level and the desire was to have a domestic season that dovetailed and fed into that level. Keith echoed the comments that Davie had made in his Chair's report about the crop of talented youngsters at the moment and we would like to see that continue by providing the right competition pathway for them.

As further background, Keith said that in his conversations with his colleagues on the BC Commission, it was clear that some other areas had struggled to put together a coherent season last year whereas others had been back to full racing with large races and series as normal.

In recent months, Keith and Andy had held several meetings with Martin Graham, Sean McDonald and Phil Darby to discuss youth cyclocross racing in Scotland. This was widened out to other youth clubs through social media and there is a definite desire to have good ranking youth races in Scotland so that they have a level playing field in terms of gridding at the higher-level races like the National Trophy.

Keith summarised by saying that there was a great opportunity to pull all these strands together for next season.

Before discussing this further, the meeting moved to the next agenda item as it was inherently linked.

## 10. Women's Racing

Helen Gorman had requested this agenda item to discuss racing from a women's perspective based on some research she had carried out. It arose from her observation that when racing started back up again a lot of the races were advertised as "open" races. Helen had contacted Hamish Cowton, the National Events Officer at Scottish Cycling who had analysed data from this year's racing to look at the average numbers of men and women in mixed and single gender races. This showed that the ratio of men to women was 4.14 : 1 in mixed gender races and 3.8 : 1 for events with single gender races. However, this is based on a fairly small sample size and individual races, like the National Champs, heavily influenced the numbers.

Helen then looked at races that were similar sizes and closer to what would have been a typical series race. This revealed the following ratios:-

- Battle of the Bing (separate women's race) 4:1
- Rouken Glen (separate women's race) 3:1
- Fife College (mixed race) 6:1



This potentially indicated that there would be higher female participation if there were single gender races – but again this is too small a sample set to be conclusive. Helen therefore carried out a survey on the Facebook group Scottish Women of Cross. There were 48 responses overall:-

- 37 said they would enter an open race but would prefer a separate race
- 5 didn't mind
- 5 only entered single gender races
- 1 preferred racing with men

A follow up question about start preference in a mixed race generated 16 responses of which 15 preferred a separate start.

Again, although this is a small sample size, it suggests a definite majority in favour of separate races or at least a separate start.

Helen believed that there had been some races advertised this season as open races that were then run with a separate start for the women. Given the above findings, Helen wondered whether being clear about what the women's race would look like (i.e. whether a separate start would be provided) may generate greater participation.

#### **11.** General Discussion

At this point there was an extended general discussion covering both of the previous items. The following is a summary of the points raised:-

- On the subject of Women's racing:-
  - When fields are small, mixed fields are not a problem. The problem comes when the fields are 100+ and there is a lot of lapping taking place.
  - A female's view of racing with men is probably going to depend on where they are in their racing "career" (i.e. apprehensive to start with, ambivalent as confidence grows, then when competitive wanting a women only field again to be racing against own category).
  - Alex McDonald found putting on a separate women's race at the Battle of the Bing was very positive from an organiser's point of view.
  - At the recent student's championship they had been very keen that the male and female raced together. There is a lot of pressure on race organisers to meet lots of different requests.
  - Pre-pandemic, most series races had started to have women only races with separate age category starts.
  - It was noted that equal prize money for men and women had been agreed at the AGM on 15th March 2014.
  - Pete Matthews (both personally and on behalf of Scottish Cycling) was a supporter of women only racing and was open to how Scottish Cycling could support this happening.
  - The recent experience of the National Trophy where junior females were pulled on the last lap (even though the whole field was only 21 riders) was raised and linked to the dropout rate for young females as they went up the age groups.
- To put on a series, everyone in the same category would have to race together, probably with separate starts.
- There was disappointment that the Super Quaich had been inconsistent (1<sup>st</sup> race had a women's only race, 2<sup>nd</sup> didn't). It was felt that there was a role/opportunity for the SCX committee to provide guidance and consistency.
- Events that had novice/taster rides were very successful at encouraging both women and men (it was pointed out that women are not novice men!). These should be at the start of the season to allow riders to enter other races when they got the bug!
- The multi-disciplinary nature of bike racing is important and many top riders finish their CX season in January. It therefore made sense that the main series (with ranking points) was held before Christmas and other formats like the Super Quaich (that have to be non-ranking because of their mixed category format) are in the New Year.



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- The SCX Committee can only provide support and shape to the season if organisers engage. The key is getting the calendar right. For example, if an organiser wants to put on a grass roots / taster event, don't look for a spare weekend deliberately choose a National Trophy weekend.
- There is the potential to use smaller venues (e.g. Plean) to run smaller races that could constitute alternative series to avoid pressure for separate races at "Series" events.
- The discussions with the Youth clubs raised the possibility of collaboration between organisers and the youth clubs to put on weekend racing where multiple races were held over both days, bringing together the two sets of volunteers and sharing common infrastructure.
- Some venues have to build the course on the day of the race and wouldn't be able to leave it in place overnight.

Howard hoped that everyone who wanted to, had been able to air their views and wrapped up by reiterating the point that the committee can provide support and coordination but only in collaboration with the organisers who actually put on the races.

#### 12. #StakeMaster `22

This was an idea that the committee had posted on social media prior to the AGM and were delighted that Ian Clunie had volunteered to join the committee to take on the role. The role at this stage however was still just an idea so had been added to the Agenda to allow discussion of ideas.

Keith explained the idea came from the complexity of managing stakes throughout the season. The concept was to provide a central "database" of where kit was so that hopefully stakes didn't travel all-round the country. Instead, organisers could find out where the closest available source was. This could also be applied to other equipment if appropriate.

The following points were raised in general discussion:-

- The challenge of knowing who to contact to build the inventory
- Privacy implications of publicly sharing the location of equipment
- Could Scottish Cycling provide any support for this
- Keeping track of who had what in a transparent way could make people more prepared to loan equipment they had purchased with confidence that it would be returned
- Suggestion to share one event ahead (e.g. an A and B set) rather than just from one event to the next

Overall the idea was well supported as it would be one less headache for the organiser.

The Committee would take onboard the feedback and discuss the practicalities of making it happen.

#### **13. AOCB**

Only one point was raised. Howard advised that the Committee were struggling to get all the series trophies back. Kirsty has been working on this and it was something that we intended to follow up on prior to next season. All support would be welcome.

#### 14. Closing Remarks

The closing remarks were given by the Honorary President, Jammie Johnston

Jammie thanked everyone for attending and said it was a good turnout for a small Association. He thanked everyone who stood for the committee. He also particularly thanked all the organisers that had managed to put on events in difficult circumstances. He had only managed to get to 2 events himself but hoped that 2023 would be a better year. He was looking forward to seeing the calendar beginning to build, hopefully with most of the regular events back alongside new ones.

He was confident that the points raised during the meeting would be taken on board and that all of the committee were open to being contacted for suggestions (or even moans!). He closed by thanking everyone again and looking forward to seeing everyone in the 2022-23 season.

Howard closed the meeting at 8:36pm.



# 15. Meeting "Chat"

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

Colin Chisholm:	Craig Duncan also sends his apologies, he will be along later.
Keith Stocker:	Apologies also from Phil Darby
Keith Stocker:	ONE MORE YEAR! ONE MORE YEAR! Come on everyone
Graeme Warren:	hello@scottishcx.org.uk
Davie Graham:	Thank you Howard
Kathy Gilchrist:	Thank you for all that you have done for the sport Davie
Lesley-Anne Robertson:	Totally agree, new to CX myself and have never felt more welcome in a sport!
Pete Matthews:	https://www.britishcycling.org.uk/scotland/article/20220204-scottish- cycling-news-Scottish-Cycling-launches-the-Springboard-Fund-0
Davie Graham:	hand up
Steve Macluskie:	"women prefer to race in their own field" :-)
Keith Stocker:	Great point Fiona
Fiona Walker:	Bing was a great race
Kirsty Ellis:	Hill is awesome
Helen Gorman:	Basically agree with all the points people have made there! Great point Fiona in particular, I was terrified of the men in my first few races!
Keith Stocker:	Whitter away Colin!!! 👍
Sam Long:	Happy with novices, equality etc – let's be careful we don't start too early, some of us have long travel times
Fiona Walker:	Totally agree with you on that one Sam
Jim Brewer:	For us novices - what is the difference between 'points/ranking race' and other races?
Sam Long:	If you want to race at BC / National Series, entry and gridding is points development
Keith Stocker:	Jim, the actual organisation of having a ranking points race isn't much more than a non-ranking event. There's a few extra bits
Sam Long:	We could potentially have "open" races Sat PM, even in the night? And then formal races on the Sun
Davie Graham:	Hi JIm, there is very little difference on the actual ground, its more procedural beforehand
Louise Smith:	As a student club, the idea of sharing organisation is very appealing!
Kathy Gilchrist:	Love hearing the discussions about getting more women racing! (and Junior women and Youth Girls). Big smiles from me!!
Keith Stocker:	
Jim Brewer:	Thanks!
Fraser Johnston:	Just a flag I discovered during Trophy organising - when kit (mainly porta- loos) is left overnight, most contractors now expecting overnight security and additional insurance in place (apparently spike in porta-loo damage post-pandemic - who knew?!). However I've gone through the pain of working this through so if anyone is thinking of this (two days racing) - give me a shout and I can share what we did to overcome some of the headaches!



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Sean McDonald	Unfortunately I need to go. Thanks to all organisers and the committee. If i
McDonald:	can just echo the points about ranking points esp for youth races. We have
	riders who want to race competitively at British level. To do this well they
	need ranking points to get decent grids. In England riders can do two races in a weekend. Without ranking points, our riders will go to races like CXNE
	instead of SCX - which we don't really want to do. Parents are happy to
	help race organisers.
Fraser Johnston:	Prize money equal at Nat Trophy and Champs (and Kinneil X + every other
	race I saw)
Davie Graham:	hand up
Kathy Gilchrist:	Support Louise's comment.
Helen Gorman:	Yep absolutely. Equal prizes shows categories are valued equally. (My best
	prize in a CX race was my Albannach socks which I still treasure!)
Jim Foulis:	Some great positivity about next season. Agree with many points of
	discussion, the key has to be sustainability and growth of our sport in
	future, ladies, youths and in all frankness future v40 / v50's. For me:
Louise Smith:	A summer series or novice series sounds fantastic!
Johnny Lee:	I would love a race during the summertime
Davie Graham:	scx equal prize money was agreed at the AGM on 15th March 2014
Alex McDonald:	Tweedcross was great summer race
Fiona Walker:	The south west series is a great example of low key grass roots racing
Louise Smith:	Also Colin, I'd be keen to have a chat with you some other time about Plean
Fraser Johnston:	Grateful for the clarification Keith ;)
Sam Long:	Cracking idea Keith
Colin Chisholm:	Louise, give me a call/msg me when you're free
Pete Matthews:	Fully agree with Keith. Feels like there is so much appetite for CX in
	Scotland, which is awesome, so let's control the calendar better to
	maximize it
Louise Smith:	Like a stake census
Neil Scott:	Stake faff was a right faff as an organiser so stakemaster is a good idea. We
	have a couple at Knockburn, couple of thousand blocking the container
Sam Long:	Could we not use a dedicated colour for sxc stakes?
Sam Long:	Scx
paul davies:	SXC stake colour - White ?
Keith Stocker:	<b>e</b>
Pete Matthews:	Paul, I'll feed 'kit support' back to our events team - definitely not my bag!
paul davies:	Thanks Pete
paul davies:	Thanks everyone
James Woodbridge:	Thanks all!
Helen Gorman:	Thanks all!
Louise Smith:	Thank you