

North West Cyclocross Association Report August 2017

Cyclocross in the North West is managed largely by the North West Cyclocross Association. This is primarily running the NWCCA Cyclocross League.

The NWCCA League

We have had a fantastic uptake of riders registering for the league, with riders contesting a season-long competition in a variety of categories. Registered riders get a league number and transponder for the season then appear in league tables.

The NWCCA league has events at venues from Northwich, Cumbria, North East Lancashire to Merseyside, and not just the big cities. For 2017 we have lost the Otterspool Park venue due to substantial fees demanded by Liverpool City Council. On the positive side, there are 6 totally new venues for 2017, and new organisers.

Many riders volunteer to help at events. Each rider is asked to support two events and for these, they are awarded their average points in the league competition.

Numbers of female and children competitors has mushroomed in recent years, due to a friendly atmosphere at events and ease of participation – a bike, helmet and turn up on the day and have a go.

We have a set of standards for all league events, with the race order and times specified, along with support teams, the NWCCA transponder system, standard methods for judging and results publication. Course layout follows BC and where applicable UCI guidelines.

The NWCCA prize presentation was on the 21st January 2017 in Horwich, this was very well attended evening.

Revised Event Schedule for 2017

In the 2016 season, numbers again increased to the point where the Vets/Women's race at a number of venues was crowded. The better riders always had back markers to go past, and those further back had issues with faster riders. The number of ladies competing in the Vets/Women's race has increased.

For the 2017 season, the NWCCA has split the Vets race into three race groups, in two separate races. The Vet40-49 age groups is approximately 2/3rds of the Vets field, the Vet50+ approx. 1/3rd then the ladies. To compensate for the time required, the Uder12 and Under10 races will be run together. There will be 8 separate league tables.

10:30am Youth (U14/U16). A 30 minute race using a large part of the main adult course, with all riders finished within 40 minutes. This race has strong competition between regular league riders. Separate league table.

11:20 Under 8. A 10 minute race for the U8 age groups. The course is generally flat with a short lap time, with riders visible at all times. No balance bikes. Separate league table.

11:45 Under 12 and Under 10. A 15 minute race on a more demanding course than the U8 course, but still with many shorter laps. The course may be a small part of the main course or a totally separate course. This race is very competitive, with very capable young riders. Separate league table for U10 and U12.

12:30 Women and Vet50men. A 40 minute race for all women and men over 50 age categories. Separate league tables, one each for Vet50 and Women.

13:30 Vet40 men. A 40 minute race for Vet40-49men age categories. Separate league table.

14:30 Senior / Junior men. A 50+ minute race for senior and junior riders, with some very competitive riding. The number of junior male riders has changed little over the years. Separate league table.

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Club Support

Events are organised by local clubs, with the NWCCA team of officials and regular helpers adding their support. An annual training session is held to assist organisers and their teams to put on their event, and there is a NWCCA regional organiser document as reference. Clubs provide volunteers each year to support their event, in 2016 generally well supported. This, “putting something back into the sport” is a very positive aspect of Cyclocross in the region. Clubs have risen to the increased standard required, both by the rules and by the riders. Organisers and their clubs are to be commended.

Participation

Cyclocross has become a family day out, with all ages taking part during the day, this continues. We attract non-league riders from across the country, as well as “casual” riders trying competitive cycling for the first time.

Cyclocross introduces many people to cycling, with many going on to try other disciplines. Whilst the majority of registered league riders are already BC members, potential exists for further recruitment. In 2016 we introduced a “Novice” race. Numbers have been low, but some have progressed to the main races.

The table has the number of signed on riders which have increased by 30% compared to 2015. With £3 adult and £1.50 Youth BC levy for each rider, this generates significant income for BC.

Year	Number of events	Event SJ	Event WV	Event Y	Event U12/U10	Event Adults SJ+WV races	Event Y + U12 + U10	Rider Total	Event non League SJ+WV races	Day Members SJ&WV races	Average Total per event
2012-13	14	723	1028	387	530	1751	917	2668	0	245	190.5714
2013-14	14	728	1226	371	710	1954	1081	3035	440	202	216.7857
2014-15	7	407	796	246	489	1203	735	1938	239	160	276.8571
2015-16	13	796	1862	462	610	2658	1072	3730	593	314	286.9231
2016-17	11	638	1761	431	1029	2399	1460	3859	627	311	350.8182

National Events

The league encourages riders to compete in the National Trophy series. NWCCA league counting events take account of clashes with NT events for the 2017 season. Numbers taking part has increased well in recent years.

Officials

The NWCCA currently has a team of 6 active qualified Cyclocross Commissaires a number of trainees including two National Commissaires, one active at National level. The transponder system has been used for the 2nd season and is reliable. We have 4 people able to run the system, then verify and process results after the event.

Coaching

Cyclocross training sessions are run by various clubs in the region for riders to attend. During the season many are weekly sessions.

Moving Forward

The NWCCA aims to raise the standard of events each year, building on the progress made in previous years. For the 2016/17 season re-configuration of the races has been done.

Alan Cook - NWCCA Chair, Len Woffindin – NWCCA Committee member