

British Cycling North West Region

Regional Competition Administrator's Report to Region AGM 2017

Road Racing

The 2017 road racing season generally has been a success, with a solid programme of races on the public highway, and closed circuit race series at Salt Ayre, Litherland, Preston Arena, Steven Burke Centre (Colne) and Tameside. The road calendar is arguably better than in 2016 with events most week ends, and the pattern of a tail off towards the end of the season has been reversed with a more events in August, September and October. We lost one race due to road works, the Bole Hill events fell victim to a late appearance of traffic lights and a lane restriction in a critical position on the circuit. We lost another event due to internal problems in a club, which was indeed unfortunate.

The closed circuit criteriums provide good midweek evening racing in the middle part of the season, and are also providing some week end competition at the beginning and end with a number of extra events registered at Salt Ayre, Preston Arena and Steven Burke Centre.

Once the data from HQ has been assembled from the Levy returns it will be possible to make a solid comparison with previous seasons, but the impression is that we have again increased the number of competitive opportunities in road and circuit racing over the previous season. There is definitely a need for even more road events, a frequent criticism I hear from riders is that there is difficulty getting entries accepted for races, particularly in the lower categories.

There are ongoing problems with police permissions in Cheshire, and we continue to be refused permission for races on circuits of less than 10 miles in length. So far there has been no change in the Cheshire Police attitude, and the only circuit we are able to use is a revised longer version of the Great Budworth circuit. There is an increasing pressure on our West Lancashire circuits due to a growing number of TLI races, and the fear is that we will lose even more circuits because of the frequency of use by non BC organisations. The good news is that Merseyside Police have accepted the Accredited Marshal scheme and we have been able to gain the use of a new circuit in the Ormskirk area which is partly within their police area.

The Cheshire Police issue aside, all other permissions have been problem free and we have maintained excellent relationships with Lancs, Merseyside and Cumbria Police

Circuit Races

The Preston Arena series reappeared this year, and ran for sixteen weeks initially with a good level of entry, which allowed the promotion of four extra events in August. The Litherland Circuit showed a solid level of usage and the Tameside Circuit has gone from strength the strength. The Steven Burke series has been well supported and has been extended into September. The Victoria Park, NW Youth Series and the Youth Tour have been extremely successful with entry levels that are approaching capacity and we perhaps need to think about how we cope with the demand should it continue to rise.

Again once the levy returns are in, we will be able to see exactly how many opportunities we have provided.

Track Racing

The Manchester Leagues are very busy in the Autumn and Winter, and are operating at capacity most nights.. The Youth Omnium Rounds at Manchester and Knowsley were successful but for Knowsley in particular the number of entries was lower than in previous years. Knowsley Track League had a

disappointing season with very low numbers of entries across all categories which meant that League was not financially viable and the last two meetings were cancelled. It is felt that Friday evening is not good during the road racing season due to the large number of racing opportunities on Saturdays, particularly for Youth Riders. The Knowsley League may benefit if it were moved to another midweek night, but the NW Region has so many closed circuit races that it would be difficult to choose the best one.