

North West Mountain bike development 2018 season-

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The 2018 mountain bike cross country season has been very successful in the North West. We have seen a growth in events and participation. The addition of the standalone event at Lowther Castle organised by a new event organiser has helped add another opportunity to the calendar which I feel can be added to as we continue to grow the number of events. The crank it racing series has once again been running this year at several venues across the whole of the region with youth riders receiving coaching in the morning as well as a race. This all helps to build the pool of riders for the future.

In terms of grassroot level events the Midweek MTB Madness series has gone from strength to strength this year. Karen Long has taken the series to the next level in terms of promotion and development and we are now seeing around 100 riders at every round of the series. The round also hosted a weekender event at Bowland Wild Boar park which proved to be successful with riders. The aim for the series is now to add another weekend round into the series but essentially keep the series format as it is. Many other regions are looking at this format and are trying to replicate it in order to develop their own and build a stronger base.

Women's participation has also increased in the midweek series. This is largely down to the introduction of the new women's enthusiast and racer categories rather than keeping everyone in one.

We have struggled a bit with commissaire appointments but with several new regional commissaires because of last year's trainee course this has been easier than previous years. There have been three trainees attending events this year who are all close to completing their logbooks and should be available from 2019 onwards.

There are some discussions of developing a group to support mountain biking going forward which will hopefully progress over the winter before 2019.