

British Cycling North West Region

Regional Competition Administrator's Report to Region AGM 2018

Road Racing

The 2018 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) Tameside and the new circuit in Carlisle. The road calendar has been not quite as good as last year, but we have had events most week ends. The pattern of a tail off towards the end of the season has perhaps re emerged with the loss of the Manchester Wheelers, Harry Middleton, Weaver Valley and St Helens late season events, but has been slightly mitigated by re scheduled events at Aughton and Nateby.

We lost two races due to road works with the late appearances of temporary traffic lights in critical positions on the circuits, but both these events were rescheduled. Temporary traffic lights are almost impossible to deal with, the police don't know when and where they are to be set up and it seems like the councils don't either. We lost the early season event at Bolton by Bowland due to bad weather.

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 at least maintained the overall number of competitive opportunities in road and circuit racing over the previous season. There is still a need for even more road events, a frequent criticism 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. The meeting towards the end of 2017 with Cheshire Clubs was positive, but so far no new events have emerged in the County.

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

Circuit Races

The closed circuits provide good midweek evening racing in the middle part of the season, and are also providing some week end competition with events at Tameside, Litherland, Salt Ayre and Carlisle. Preston Arena, Carlisle and Steven Burke Centre extended their original mid week programmes into August and September.

The new circuit in Carlisle has enjoyed a successful opening season and we look forward to continued growth in 2019.

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 go from strength to strength in the Autumn and Winter, and are operating at capacity. Knowsley Track League did not run in 2018, and if it is to continue a new organiser will need to step forward. We should try to encourage the promotion of open track events during the season, but this problem is national not just restricted to the NW Region.

Commissaires

Generally we have enough commissaires to cover our road events most week ends, but occasional problems arise when major national events take away our senior commissaires or when we have more than one event on the same day. Holiday periods also cause problems but so far we have managed to staff all of our road races. We could certainly do with a few more road commissaires but I do not think that the issue is critical yet. There are issues with mid week circuit racing, and we definitely need to train up more circuit commissaires for all our venues as a matter of urgency for 2019.