



MINUTES OF THE 20th NORTH WEST REGION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY BY ZOOM CALL
MONDAY 21st SEPTEMBER 2020

Present

Officers:

A Gornall (Chairman) C Braybrooke (Press & Media Secretary) C Leigh (Administrator)
I Roberts (Treasurer)

Ex officio & BC Staff

P Braybrooke Regional Competition Administrator (RCA) B Barrett (NW Recreation Officer)
A Newall (NW Regional Event Officer (REO)), R Pickering NW Cycling Delivery Manager (RDM)
J Wych NW Club Coaching Officer

Clubs represented:

Astley & Tyldesley CC, Bolton Hot Wheels CC,, Cheshire Mavericks, Clayton Velo Racing Club, CS Pendle, Eastlands Velo, Element RC, Harry Middleton CC, Kendal CC, Manchester Bicycle Club, North Cheshire Clarion, Pit Brow Lassies CA, Ribble Valley Juniors, Rossendale RC, Salt Ayre CA, Sportcity Velo, Stretford Whlrs, Tulio CC, The Racing Chance Foundation, Warrington RC. 8 Private Members (5 votes).

41 attendees

Carole Leigh Regional Administrator opened the meeting welcoming everyone to our inaugural virtual AGM, with reiterating some housekeeping rules to ensure the smooth running of the meeting in these unprecedented challenges times when we are all learning and adapting to different ways of working.

1. APOLOGIES

T. Taylor (Team & Coaching Co-ordinator), Merseyside Cycling Development Group

2. MINUTES OF 2019 AGM

The minutes of the AGM held on 16th September 2019 having been previously circulated were taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record.

Proposed by The Racing Chance Foundation Seconded by Cycle Sport Pendle

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES – None

4. OFFICERS & EX OFFICIO REPORTS

Chairman

Alan Gornall presented his report as circulated. He reiterated the challenges that the region had faced due to the Pandemic and it was imperative to stay positive. We had to adapt to different ways of working, although limited racing since this year the wheels hadn't stopped turning completely with Regional members sitting on various national commissions giving the region the opportunity to influence at a national level. He advised that the NW Board were taking a more strategic approach utilising the knowledge & expertise within the Workgroups & encouraged all interested members to volunteer to be a part of them by contacting our administrator.

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Administrator

Carole Leigh presented her report as previously circulated, she added 2020 had not been without its challenges with meetings held virtually since March but the region had continued to make progress with its forward thinking and felt that the region was in a positive position.

Treasurer

Ian Roberts presented his report to the meeting.

Press & Media

Christian Braybrooke presented his report as circulated.

Team & Coaching Coordinator

In the absence of Tracey Taylor, her report was taken as tabled.

The board would be looking into co-opting someone into that role as we progress.

Carole Leigh (Administrator) proposed a vote of thanks to Tracey Taylor for her enthusiasm & efforts during her time in absence and wished her well for the future.

Competition Administrator.

Phil Braybrooke presented his reports as tabled, he added that we will regroup for 2021 and make good use of the good practice put in place during the 2020 season & lockdown.

Regional Event Officer

Adam Newall presented his report as previously circulated

NW Cycling Delivery manager inc Regional Delivery Plan & Finance Group

Robert Pickering presented his report as tabled and reiterated that the emphasis is for on the way forward, and drew the attention to those present to the informative documents on the websites.

The Delivery plan group is Board based this sets out the priorities as they effect the NW Region in the strategic preparation of the Regional Delivery plan.

The officer's reports were accepted Proposed by Cheshire Mavericks Seconded by Harry Middleton CC

5. WORKGROUP & SPECIFIC DISCIPLINE REPORTS

Cycle Speedway

Mike Hack had nothing further to add to his report previously circulated, successfully Round 6 making a low key return to racing with a 50% turn out which was encouraging due to the ongoing pandemic circumstances.

Off Road Workgroup

Len Woffindin presented his report as tabled and advised that the change of name happened not long before lockdown in March, moving forward the group will change emphasis to involve off road in its entirety.

Women's Workgroup

Danielle Riley presented the report was taken as circulated,

Road & Track Workgroup

Fred Bamforth tabled his as circulated

Event Support Workgroup inc. NEG report

David Greatorex tabled his report as circulated

Coaching & Youth Workgroup

The working of this group was noted through the report of Rob Pickering.

Membership & Recreation

This was a new workgroup set up as we went into lockdown and it is hoping this can now regroup and move forward.

Events Group

This is an ad hoc NW Board workgroup and the report was taken as circulated

The Chair thanked the Chairs of the workgroups for their reports and informed the meeting that these would be revisited at our next board meeting and any members encouraged to give their input by contacting the Administrator.

The reports were accepted as tabled.

Proposed by Cheshire Mavericks, Seconded Bolton Hot Wheels CC

6. Election of Officers

The following officers were elected unopposed

Position	Elected
Chair	Alan Gornall
Administrator	Carole Leigh
Treasurer	Ian Roberts
Press & Media	Christian Braybrooke
Team & Coaching Co-ordinator	Position vacant

The vacant position of Team & Coaching Co-ordinator be referred back to the Board to be discussed at their next meeting and a hopeful co-option.

7. Election of Board Members (6)

The following members were elected unopposed

Fred Bamforth
Heather Bamforth
David Greatorex
Danielle Riley
Alan Roper
Len Woffinden

8. Election of Auditors (2)

The following Auditors were elected unopposed

Beryl Bowes
Alan Roper

Chair advised that this would be Beryl's last year standing as a Regional Auditor and we thank her for her sterling work supporting the region not just as an auditor but in many roles.

9. Election of National Councillors (5)

The following members were elected

Fred Bamforth
Heather Bamforth
Alan Gornall
Carole Leigh
Ian Roberts

Not elected David Greatorex & Alan Roper

10. Proposals

Proposal 1. Proposed by Carole Leigh Seconded by Heather Bamforth on behalf of the NW Board.

NW Byelaws .

2. The Officers of the Region shall consist of Chairperson, Administrator, Treasurer and Co-ordinators responsible for: Competition, Coaching & Development and Press & Media. Be amended to:

The Officers of the Region shall consist of Chairperson, Vice-Chair, Administrator, Treasurer, Inclusivity & Diversity Officer and Co-ordinators responsible for: Competition, Coaching & Team and Publicity & Media.

Rationale:

Vice-chair: The Chair's role is to oversee the running of the Region as a whole. It is anticipated that the Vice-Chair would have responsibility for the implementation of the Regional Plan.

An Inclusivity & Diversity Officer would ensure that there would be someone responsible for ensuring that the various activities in the Region are inclusive and help to ensure that minorities within our Region are represented.

Coaching & Team and Publicity & Media – changed to reflect the most recent role descriptions.

3. The Region Committee shall consist of the officers of the Region plus six (6) committee members who shall have full voting powers. Other persons may be co-opted from time to time but shall not have any voting powers. Be amended to:

The Region Committee shall consist of the officers of the Region plus seven (7) Board members who shall have full voting powers, from which a second Vice-Chair, who would normally take on the role of Safeguarding & Welfare officer (training as per BC regulations to be taken), should be appointed by the Board members at the first Board meeting following the AGM. Other persons may be co-opted from time to time but shall not have any voting powers. The Regional Delivery Manager, Regional Events Officer, Clubs & Coaching Officer and Recreation Officer be permitted to attend Regional Board meetings, but they shall also have no voting rights.

Rationale:

In order for the Regional Plan to be implemented, the Regional Board should consist of representatives from each discipline (Road, Track, MTB, CX, BMX & Cycle Speedway plus Recreation (as an impromptu discipline) plus two additional board members to assist with strategy and governance. It is not anticipated that every member will need to be present at every board meeting – the additional places are being made available so that space can be made for BMX, Cycle Speedway and MTB.

7. All references to the Committee are changed to "Board" for consistency and the word "elected" changed to "co-opted".

8. The Region Council shall comprise of delegates from each of the affiliated Clubs/Associations and commercially named clubs/teams within the Region. The numbers for each shall be as laid down in the National Bye Laws. Be amended to:

The Region Council shall comprise of delegates from each of the affiliated Clubs/Associations and commercially named clubs/teams within the Region as well as members of the Federation who are not members of affiliated Clubs. The numbers for each shall be as laid down in the National Bye Laws.

Rationale:

To ensure that private members are included in the above.

11. Sub Committees will be set up where necessary by Regional Officers to assist them in the running of their Regional roles. Be amended to:

Sub Committees will be set up where necessary by Regional Officers to assist them in the running of their Regional roles or for assisting with the implementation of the Regional Plan.

Rationale:

To widen the ability of the Board to establish working groups across the disciplines.

13. Nominations for Region Officers must be accompanied with CV's for distribution to the Council Members prior to the Region Annual General Meeting. Be amended to:

Nominations for Region Officers and Board Members must be accompanied with CV's for distribution to the Council Members prior to the Region Annual General Meeting.

Rationale:

This is done in practice so we should update it to reflect what actually happens.

14. Region Auditors shall be nominated annually be amended to:

Two Examiners of Accounts shall be nominated annually, at least one of whom shall not be a member of the Regional Board

Rationale:

National Byelaw 9.5.4.3 states that at the AGM of the Regional Council, it must "Elect two Examiners of Accounts at least one of whom shall not be a member of the Regional Board."

The updated wording reflects the byelaws and removes the requirement suggesting that they audit the accounts when this does not in practice happen (in the financial reporting sense).

The following amendments were carried with 30 voting for and 1 against

Byelaws amended to read: -

BYE LAWS

1. This Region shall be known as the **NORTH WEST REGION** of the **BRITISH CYCLING FEDERATION ("BC")**.

2. The Officers of the Region shall consist of Chairperson, Vice-Chair, Administrator, Treasurer, Inclusivity & Diversity Officer and Co-ordinators responsible for: Competition, Coaching & Team and Publicity & Media.

3. The Regional Board shall consist of the officers of the Region plus seven (7) Board members who shall have full voting powers, from which a second Vice-Chair, who would normally take on the role of Safeguarding & Welfare officer (training as per BC regulations to be taken), should be appointed by the Board members at the first Board meeting following the AGM. Additional persons may be co-opted from time to time but shall not have any voting powers. The Regional Delivery Manager, Regional Events Officer, Clubs & Coaching Officer and Recreation Officer be permitted to attend Regional Board meetings, but they shall also have no voting rights.

4. The quorum necessary for the Regional Board to transact any business shall be a minimum of five (5) members.

5. The Agenda for the Annual General Meeting shall be sent to each council member (or secretary) if no delegate(s) nominated 10 days prior to the meeting. The notice and agenda shall be posted on the Region's website and issued to members directly via British Cycling.

6. The Regional Board shall have full disciplinary powers of the Council as specified in the National Bye Laws and shall take full powers of the Council.

7. In the event of a Board member being absent from three (3) consecutive Board meetings without special leave of absence being granted by the Board or without giving reasons for such absence satisfactory to the Board, the member shall vacate office. A successor shall be co-opted onto the Board at the earliest opportunity which shall be ratified at the next Council meeting.
8. The Region Council shall comprise of delegates from each of the affiliated Clubs/Associations and commercially named clubs/teams within the Region as well as members of the Federation who are not members of affiliated Clubs. The numbers for each shall be as laid down in the National Bye Laws.
9. The quorum necessary for the Region Council to transact any business shall be 10.
10. The appropriate number of National Councillors, as laid down in the National Bye Laws who must be members of the Region Council shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.
11. Workgroups will be set up where necessary by Regional Officers to assist them in the running of their Regional roles or for assisting with the implementation of the Regional Plan.
12. A Region levy of 50p shall be charged for all junior and senior category track events & £1 for road and circuit events. A proportion of this levy shall go towards funding of Region Teams.
13. Nominations for Region Officers and Board members must be accompanied with CV's for distribution to the Council Members prior to the Region Annual General Meeting.
14. Two Examiners of Accounts shall be nominated annually, at least one of whom shall not be a member of the Regional Board.
15. North West Region Championships shall be held for all cycling disciplines and categories providing there is adequate funding available and sufficient competitor participation.
16. Nominated Region Teams may have their entry fees and part or all of their expenses paid providing there are sufficient funds available from within the Racing Fund, and these expenses have been properly accounted for and authorised by the Region Board.
17. All Chief Commissaire and Assistant Commissaire appointments except those made by BC Headquarters will be made by the Competition Administrator in consultation with the event organiser. All other Officials, i.e. Commissaires, Judges, Handicappers, Timekeepers must be taken from the approved Race Officials list of the BC Region from which they originate.
18. Organisers of road races, non-league closed circuit races and non-league track events shall pay expenses to appointed BC officials from the approved Race Officials List, Accredited Marshals and National Escort Group as specified in BC Technical Regulation 16.13 'Payments to appointed officials'.
19. On all start sheets and programmes before/after each named official must state the exact duties he or she will be performing. No further officials shall be added following acceptance of the permit application except with the approval of the appropriate Committee.
20. The Region shall organise updating seminars for all Race Officials at least annually.
21. The National Articles of Association, the National Bye Laws and Technical Regulations shall take precedence on any matters not covered by these Bye Laws.

It is intended for these Byelaw changes in the interests of being open and transparent to be passed to be in place for the 2021 AGM. It is felt that this then give us time to get a better view of the any new proposed regional board structures and allow suitable candidates to put themselves forward for election to any new positions

Proposal 2.

This proposal was withdrawn and agreed that the sentiments would be included in our questions following receipt of the Annual reports and submitted to National Council.

Proposal 3. Proposed by Cycle Sport Pendle Seconded by Astley & Tyldesley Cycle Speedway

National Council notes the recruitment process is underway for a replacement Chief Executive and requests the Board to ensure that it is a key requirement that the successful candidate has excellent knowledge of, and experience in, the sport and pastime of cycling, as well as the appropriate management and leadership qualities.

A long discussion took place with regard the appropriateness of this proposal. It was noted that the closing date was prior to National Council but still felt it appropriate to put the proposal forward to ensure our message was heard and considered.

The motion was carried with a simple majority 19 For & 11 Against

Proposal 4. Proposed & Seconded by Cycle Sport Pendle

National Council notes that the current Constitution of the Federation contravenes Articles 7.3, 7.4, 7.6, 7.7, 7.8, 7.9, and 7.12 of the UCI Constitution, and requests the Board to take immediate steps to regularise this situation by amending the Federation's Constitution accordingly, through all necessary procedures.

For information Article 7

National Federation's rights and obligations

Rights

1.*The national federations have the following rights :*

- a) to take part in the Congress;*
- b) to draw up proposals for inclusion in the agenda of the Congress;*
- c) to exercise their voting rights through the agency of voting delegates elected among each continental confederation;*
- d) to take part in competitions organized by the UCI;*
- e) to take part in UCI's assistance, development and solidarity programmes;*
- f) to exercise all other rights arising from this Constitution and other regulations;*
- g) to receive several benefits from the UCI and/or the continental confederations.*

2.*The exercise of these rights is subject to other provisions in this Constitution and the applicable regulations.*

Obligations

3.*As members, the national federations shall comply with the Constitution and Regulations of the UCI, as well as with all decisions taken in accordance therewith. Likewise, they shall have the Constitution, Regulations and decisions of the UCI complied with by all persons concerned.*

4.*The Regulations of the UCI shall be incorporated in the corresponding regulations of the national federations.*

5.*The constitution and regulations of the national federations shall not run counter to the Constitution and Regulations of the UCI. In case of divergence, only the Constitution and Regulations of the UCI shall apply. The constitution and the regulations of the national federations must contain an express clause that in case of divergence with the Constitution and Regulations of the UCI, only the latter shall apply.*

6.*The national federations must manage their internal affairs with total independence and ensure that no third party interferes in their operations. They must remain autonomous and resist all political, religious and financial pressure which may infringe their commitment to abide by the Constitution of the UCI. Any external form of interference or attempt to interfere must be reported to the UCI.*

[Comment: This provision does not prevent, for instance, the government from controlling the appropriate use of allowances granted to a national federation but under no circumstances

should the government interfere with the strategy or the operations of the national federation.]

7. *The constitution and regulations of the national federations must make provision for an election or internal appointment system that ensures a complete independence of the national federation vis-à-vis third parties and ensures that all candidates are licence-holders of this national federation since at least one year prior to such election or internal appointment. In particular, the national federations shall not allow governments and other public authorities to appoint members of the governing bodies of a national federation.*

[Comment: This provision does not prevent a national federation from deciding, for instance, that within its Management Committee a limited number of positions may be taken by government representatives without voting rights, while the members with voting rights must be appointed exclusively by the general assembly amongst candidates that are nominated exclusively by the members of the national federation.]

8. *The national federations are obliged to include the provisions contained in paragraphs 6 and 7 in their constitution.*

9. *Any national federation's decisions, elections and bodies that are not in compliance with paragraphs 6 and 7 shall not be recognized by the UCI. If the situation is not regularized within the time limit granted by the UCI, the national federation may be suspended.*

10. *The national federations shall pay their annual membership contribution.*

11. *The national federations shall ensure appropriate representation of each gender on their executive committee.*

12. *The national federations shall ensure that all required persons, including all persons in an elected role or candidates for an election, are bound by the UCI Regulations by holding a licence issued in accordance with the procedures laid down in the UCI Regulations.*

A long discussion took place in relation to this proposal, in brief question was raised as to why this has taken 3 years since the EGM to be raised. The proposer felt that the board needed to be more accountable to its members & there must be a balance between funding & building trust.

Fundamental conversations need to be held with UK Sport. A contra argument as to why this discussion 3 years later as our funding continues from DCMS and UK Sport with us conforming to the Code of Governance & if we change our constitution will this not remove our funding? It was felt that the benefit of the code of governance attracts high level sponsors.

It is understood that Chief Executive has spoken to UCI with regard this subject and we are not under any pressure to make changes as we are not the only national governing body with the same issues. It is understood that several other countries are mirroring our management structure although this not fully compliant with UCI rules. It is recognised that it is operationally difficult for organisations setting up programme within a sport these take time to set up and run, UK Sport & Sport England can change the direction and with that funding ask for changes, those changes may not benefit & have a negative impact on the membership, not just on competition but recreation too.

It was argued by the proposer that we were put in this situation when the Federation was in a bit of a turmoil and the decisions made now need to put right. Move forward and not seen to be a quango.

The motion was carried with a simple majority 16 For & 13 Against

Proposal 5.

The following proposal was made **Proposed by Cycle Sport Pendle Seconded by Lune RCC** National Council requests the Board to take all necessary steps to establish an English Cycling Union, composed of representatives of each of the English Regions, and to have similar status in the Federation's Constitution to the Scottish and Welsh equivalents.

Discussion took place, there was no denying that Team England are disadvantaged compared to Wales & Scotland at Commonwealth Games and an ECU could be a possible vehicle to ensure appropriate representation, how the current regions could have representation at National Council would have to be explored? Federation Commission was originally composed of just the English Regions in recent years the Scottish & Welsh Unions have been included, so not entirely fulfilling the role of an England Cycling Union, it is felt that now is the time to strengthen that structure of the Federation for proper democratic organisation and governance structure within England within British Cycling and consideration be given to creating a composite organisation of 3 constituents parts of England, Scotland & Wales.

An amendment to the proposition was proposed by

The Racing Chance Foundation & Seconded by Cycle Sport Pendle

National Council requests the Board to investigate the appropriateness and role within our current structure and constitution to establish an English Cycling Union to have similar status in the Federation's Constitution to the Scottish and Welsh equivalents & to consider what steps would be necessary for this to be established and present a report to National council with its findings.

The amendment was agreed with 28 For and 1 against.

The substantive proposition was then agreed and carried with a simple majority with 27 voting for and 2 against.

11. Further Information

Regional Council

A reminder that Regional Council meeting is to be held on Wednesday 28th October at 7.30pm.

This would again be held virtually by zoom with registration via our website www.bc-nw.co.uk.

Registration closes on 25th October 2020 whereafter the link will be sent out, this meeting is to discuss the National Agenda and reports and information will be sent direct from HQ to BC club contacts by 23rd October.

Before the meeting came to a close two more polls were launched, the first being

- Was this your first attendance at our AGM with 14 from the 30 voting attending for the first time.
- The final poll was as this was an inaugural virtual AGM, the feeling how the meeting had gone 85% of attendees felt the meeting and its format had been excellent.

The Chair thanked & congratulated Carole Leigh & Christian Braybrooke for their efforts with the planning and successful hosting of our inaugural virtual AGM.

He thanked everyone for their attendance and hoped that they stayed safe & well.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.45pm