

North West Cyclocross Association Report September 2023

The Cyclocross league in the North West is managed by the North West Cyclocross Association. The NWCCA also assists events outside of the league structure if requested.

2023/2024

The Calendar for 2023/24, starting September 2023, has 11 provisional events, avoiding clashes with National Cyclocross events and avoiding multiple race weekends. The fully separate women's race will continue. The first event of the season at Leverhulme Park in Bolton was well attended with good racing.

All adult NWCCA league members are expected to provide volunteer cover at events, this generally works well with most people contributing as requested.

Dave Haygarth is again organising a round of the National Trophy Series, at a new venue near Thornton in Craven, Barnoldswick.

The 2023/24 NWCCA calendar is available here: <https://nwcca.org.uk/calendar/>

The NWCCA timing system continues to work well, with reliable results published on the evening of each event.

Cyclocross Commissaires

A number of new Regional B commissaires are now contributing to NWCCA events, with a hope that a number will progress to Regional A. The introduction of the B grade Regional commissaire has helped. We are still looking to attract younger applicants who are then able to go onto National and UCI before the age of 50.

For this season we should have at least 3 officials at each event, and allows us to raise the standard of the events. We have standardised start areas and are now able to do the call up and start in a similar way to national events. We have improved the pit area with layout and better management with more of us. We are being more consistent with the start process. This better prepares riders for the national events where there is a larger officials team and procedures strictly applied.

Event Venues

Finding suitable event venues remains a challenge, and this is not confined to the North West. With the large number at each event, venues need good access, plenty of parking, and ideally toilet facilities with a place for sign on. Gazebos are sometimes used for sign on, and portable toilets are brought in to some venues. The venue then needs an area with various surfaces that contribute to a cyclocross course providing good racing conditions.

A reason for denying access for an event is perceived damage to the ground, especially in parks and venues where they like to see large expanses of pristine grass – which is what we are finding with University grounds. The ground usually recovers in early Spring, with fresh growth and much greener grass where the course has been.

Cycling specific venues of note at Wyke in Bradford, and Cyclopark in Gravesend, are both built on reclaimed land not suitable for rebuilding. Both have extensive road circuits well in excess of 1Km, numerous routes round with cut throughs, elevation and varying surfaces. Both have extensive areas suitable for off road activity, and good facilities to support such activity. Both have hosted national circuit events, and both hosted national cyclocross events very successfully.

There is benefit in looking for such venues to be developed in the North West.