

North West Region of British Cycling

Chair's Report 2020

I have now completed my third year as Chair of the Region which has been an unprecedented year, which has seen planning for a normal season change into no BC sanctioned activity to the start of a return to some activity with restrictions. With meetings taking place online new skills have had to be learned to keep functioning in these uncertain times.

Regional Delivery Plan

Our Regional Board assisted the British Cycling staff in developing the Regional Delivery Plan for the Region. We agreed that the Regional Board would take ownership of the Competition element of the Plan.

The Plan covers the development of the sport from both a racing and training perspective, including riders and volunteers.

It was felt that we needed to increase the number of Road and/or Circuit Commissaires in our Region and both of these courses were delivered in February, with a mentorship programme being introduced alongside to assist Trainee Coaches. Whilst the COVID19 situation has brought an enforced hiatus to the Road season, it is hoped that this programme will continue in 2021.

Our Regional Plan identified that there was room for growth of the sport in the south of the North West Region. With assistance from a few clubs in the area, a new road race course in Cheshire was identified. This has been risk assessed and it was planned to hold the Regional RR championships there this year, although this was later cancelled due to the ongoing restrictions. However, we are keen to continue to develop racing opportunities in Cheshire, along with the rest of the Region, and this will continue into 2021.

Coaching Opportunities

Part of our focus in the Regional Plan is to provide coaching and training opportunities for our members.

Through the 2019/2020 winter the Region organised a series of Women's circuit based coaching sessions which proved to be successful. This was run as a pilot and it is hoped that these sessions will continue over the autumn/winter and into 2021.

Regional Academy

Whilst we were in lockdown, we took the opportunity to revisit our Regional Plan and, in particular, the development opportunities for our younger riders. As a consequence, we were able to identify and draw up proposals for a Regional Academy, which aims to provide an alternative pathway for riders, especially at an Under-23 level.

Both British Cycling and GBCT have approved our plans and we hope to get this moving over the winter of 2020/21.

Communication

Our Regional Plan has identified that communication is important and that steps needed to be taken to update our existing platforms and provide ways in which we can better engage with our membership. The Region has invested in a new website and is also working with BC HQ to pilot the use of Microsoft Teams for Regional Board meetings.

During lockdown we have been unable to meet in person and so meetings have been held virtually over Zoom. We envisage that the majority of our meetings (both for the Regional Board and the various workgroups) will continue to be held virtually going forward.

Commissaire Appointments

Working with our new RCA, plans were put in place through the winter to improve Road Commissaire appointments which saw appointments made for the first half of the season and the rest of the appointments were in hand as the COVID19 situation unfolded.

National Junior Road & Time Trial Championships

With the development of juniors in mind, the Region agreed to promote the Junior National Road and for the first time a Junior Nation Time Trial Championship for both Men and Women. Unfortunately these plans along with the rest of BC's sanctioned activities came to a stop in March.

Resumption of Activities

An outline plan was made for the rescheduling of postponed events for later in the year if circumstances allowed, we are currently waiting for that to happen. Some group rides and coaching sessions are now allowed with restrictions, so moving forward we will have to maintain a flexible approach and work with the restrictions in force as things unfold.

We have already taken steps to start planning for the 2021 season with the additional measures required with regards social distancing, sanitising, etc.

Regional Governance

I have been actively involved in the drafting of the Regional Governance Guide which will be available shortly. This guide will help the Region with best practice and self-evaluation as well as providing a reference document for new board members and those members looking at joining a Regional Board.

The Working groups that have been formed to spread the work load of the board and represent the various disciplines, officials and recreational members, will continue to develop.

Expressions of interest are welcome and we will update the membership of new opportunities to get involved with the Region via the regional website and our social media channels.

Regional Finances

The region's finances remain healthy and plans are being put in place as to how best to invest these to benefit the development of the Region.

Conclusion

I would like to thank all the officials and volunteers who make all the activities within the region possible and the support of my fellow board members this last year. Next year may also prove to have its challenges but we will do everything we can to overcome them.

Alan Gornall 04/09/2019