

North West Region of British Cycling Chair's Report 2025

I have now completed my eighth year as Chair of the Region, which will be my last as I will have served for the maximum 12 years allowed as a board member. This year has again seen a calendar of events across all disciplines in the Region from grassroots through to National level competition this in spite of continued challenges to organisers and varying numbers of competitors.

This has only been possible by people volunteering throughout the Region, all this despite the challenges around the numbers of volunteers available. We still need more help to allow us to move towards one of our goals of more people doing less rather than less people doing more, this will make events more sustainable in the future. This will be aided with the new national bursary scheme which is available for volunteers.

The Regional Board has provided financial support to events across the disciplines on a case by case basis again this year, to help events go ahead. We will be looking into how we can best support events in the Region in coming season. The Region also supports youth teams at inter regional championships, which this year will include MTB XC, Track and Cyclocross.

The new race fee structure, mentioned last year, has now been implemented and is bedding in as it has affected some disciplines more than others. The income from BC to the Region has remained the same, which is based on historical levies from Road, Track and Circuit events. The Region is not disadvantaged from this formula but there are others who are with the expectations now placed upon them of supporting all the disciplines. The Regions finances are healthy but we need to be mindful of how we invest them in the Region for maximum benefit. We welcome suggestions from you, the Region's members, on how we can invest in the Region, as we go forward within BC's overall strategy.

There is review underway to check if the current regional structures are the best option to represent and support the interests of the membership. It is planned to have options for discussion at National Council, which will then be opened up to wider consultation of the membership before any decisions on any possible changes are made. It is important that you make your opinions known via the consultations so that your voices are heard and therefore taken into account. There are 2 members from the region involved in the initial work leading up to National Council which gives input from the region into the start of this important work.

We are always looking to strengthen the Regional Board to enable it to function effectively for the benefit of our members and we can co-opt members to the board if required as we have done in the past.

This year has seen the continuation of the meetings, along with the other Regional Chairs, with the CEO of British cycling to resolve any issues we have been unable to resolve in the normal manner, this is proving to be a useful dialogue, building the relationships between the Regions and BC HQ.

We know that there will be continuing challenges ahead but if we work as a Regional Team, working together we can ensure that competition and our other regional activities can go ahead in the coming years. I would like to thank all the officials and volunteers who make all the activities within the region possible and a special thanks for the support of my fellow board members this last year, as well as all the people I have worked with on my 12 years on the Regional Board.

Alan Gornall 24/08/2025

