

Statements from Cycling Ulster Executive Nominees

Paul Dixon has been nominated by Fintona CC
Joanna Gray has been nominated by 3 Peaks CC
Julie Rea has been nominated by Phoenix CC
Rachael Withers has been nominated by Fintona CC

Paul Dixon

I have been involved in various aspects of youth cycling now for 8 years. I coach on a weekly basis at Orangefield during the track season. On top of this, I was previously the Chair of the Ulster Youth Commission and introduced the youth racing at Eikon Arena.

I have led a number of Ulster Teams at Youth Tour of Scotland, UK School Games, Junior Tour of Wales etc. Currently, I am involved in the Ulster Road Commission, Ulster Track Commission and Chair of the National Track Commission.

Having worked with different age categories across multiple disciplines, I would bring this knowledge and enthusiasm to the executive. My day job, when I am not working on cycling issues, gives me a good understanding of finances and working with budgets. I also have a very good eye for attention to detail.

Joanna Gray

I am an experienced and passionate leisure cyclist. I expanded my interest in cycling by becoming an Event Support Officer (ESO) for Cycling Ireland since 2016 providing support and advice to competitive events.

I am also a member of the Leisure Commission, since its inception, and complete ESO assessments for leisure events as part of this role. I became an AXA Community Bike Ride Leader last year, leading and developing beginner enthusiasts to become confident cyclists. I joined a newly formed cycling club in Fermanagh in 2014 and was Secretary for three years.

I feel my experience will enhance Cycling Ulster by bringing knowledge of these roles to the Executive, as well as an understanding of the challenges that members, promoters and clubs are facing. My working career is in event management, creating policies and processes, sourcing funding etc and I feel this experience would be useful as an Executive member, to provide guidance and support for the continued development of cycling for all.

Julie Rea

I have been a member of Phoenix Cycling Club for 11 years. I have been involved in the club committee as women's development officer for 3 years and Chairperson for 2 years. I have competed at downhill mountain biking, cross country mountain biking, road racing and cyclocross racing.

I am currently Vice Chair of Cycling Ulster. My duties within the executive include Commonwealth Games Liaison Officer, Commission representative for Women's Commission and Off-Road Commission and Commission member of Road Commission.

In 2019 I was involved in the Women on Wheels project. This 12-week project developed women's cycling skills and gave them the skills to ride in a group and take part in a sportive at the end of the project. I also managed the Cycling Ulster women's team at the Ras na mBan. I have a broad range of experience at all levels and across several cycling disciplines.

Rachael Withers

I have been involved in the sport since a young age and had the privilege of representing Ulster and Ireland in road and track competitions. I have been a volunteer with my club, organising events and on the club committee for several years.

I have a keen interest in the development of the sport and would enjoy having the opportunity to work with others across all aspects of CU and particularly building on the coaching and development opportunities for Ulster cyclists.

I have a background in sports science and sports management and feel these skills would be a strength which I could bring by being a member of the CU Executive.