

As with all Cycling activities in Ireland in 2020, the Track Season in Ulster was somewhat more condensed than usual.

After some initial hiccups and different interpretations of guidelines between National and Provincial, we finally got underway on 15th July, and thanks to some additional coaching help this year we were able to increase our activities to two sessions per week, which ran right through until mid-September.

The Youth-only session was well supported, resulting in a good showing of performances and medals at the National Championships in Dublin in September, whilst the Junior and above session saw some good work put in, both by our regular riders and those Juniors who travelled from other provinces to prepare for the Junior National Championships which were held at Orangefield on 29th August.

This resulted in a great days racing, however unfortunately at least one rider was unable to compete due to the regional lockdown which was in place at the time.

As the year progressed, Covid restrictions appeared to ease and then increase again and unfortunately on top of the existing uncertainties and the shortened track time available, there was no Ulster Track League or Ulster Championships in 2020.

We will continue to plan for 2021 *as normal* however the feeling is that some form of restrictions will still be in place next year.

Along with Cycling Ireland and Belfast City Council we are still actively pursuing the potential for a `cycling hub` in Ulster which would encompass various disciplines, including the provision of a new Velodrome to replace Orangefield, something which would complement the new National Velodrome which seems to be edging closer.

In the meantime, we are also pursuing options for some substantial remedial works at Orangefield, which will be in use for the foreseeable, and again are working with Cycling Ireland and our Development Officer Gary Lavery.

Finally on behalf of the volunteer coaches and helpers at Orangefield, we would thank the riders, parents for their support in 2020 which helped make the Track season as normal and successful as possible, and to Cycling Ulster for the funding to carry out our activities.

Anthony Mitchell (On behalf of the Ulster Track Commission)