

2021 Cycling Ulster AGM Agenda : Saturday 20th November : Armagh City Hotel

Chairperson's Address – Tommy McCague

Ordinary Business

1. To adopt the standing orders for the orderly conduct of the AGM
2. To consider the minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting
3. To receive the Financial statement to December 2020 approved by Cycling Ireland and the Income and Expenditure Statement for 10 months ended October 2021
4. To fix the Cycling Ulster membership levy for 2022
5. To receive reports

- Chairperson's Report
- BMX Commission Report
- Off-Road Commission Report
- Road Commission Report
- Safeguarding Report
- Track Commission Report
- Women's Commission Report
- Youth Academy Report
- Membership Development Officer Report
- Mary Peters Trust Report
- Commonwealth Games Report
- Technical Officer Report

6. To elect Officers to the Executive as follows

- Chairperson
 - o Tommy McCague has been nominated by Emyvale CC
- Treasurer
 - o Marian Lamb has been nominated by Phoenix CC
- Safeguarding Officer
 - o Julie Rea has been nominated by Phoenix CC
- Executive Officers
 - o Tommy Lamb has been nominated by Phoenix CC
 - o James McLaughlin has been nominated by Island Wheelers
 - o Paul Sanders has been nominated by Emyvale CC

7. Motions

- No motions have been received

8. Close of Business of AGM

9. Insurance Presentation

10. Address by Cycling Ireland President, Mr Liam Collins

11. Presentation of Special Awards

1. Standing Orders for 2021 Cycling Ulster AGM

1. The mover and seconder may speak but any subsequent amendment must be moved, seconded before discussion is allowed.
2. Members shall be permitted to speak only once.
3. The right of reply shall be held by movers of motions and amendments following which the motion shall be put.
4. Such replies shall be confined to answering previous speakers and shall not introduce new matter into the discussion.
5. On points of order, the Honorary Chairperson's decision shall be final, but he shall not refuse to consider such same.

Competent amendments	are	
	To	amend the motion;
	To	adjourn debate;
	To	put the question;
	To	move to next business.

2. To consider the minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting

Minutes of Cycling Ulster AGM 2020: Saturday 7th November: Zoom

Attendees

Executive Officers:

Tommy McCague, Oliver Hunter, Marian Lamb, Mark Moroney, Tommy Lamb, Dylan Lyness, Julie Rea, Claire Young

Employees:

Patrick Withers (Admin/Compliance Officer) Gary Lavery (Membership Development Officer)

Guests:

Matt McKerrow (CEO Cycling Ireland), Ciaran McKenna (President Cycling Ireland), Carl Fullerton, Ronan McLaughlin and Anthony Mitchell (Cycling Ireland Board).

Delegates:

Aaron Wallace, Chris Corey, Charles Kelly, Chris Withers, Frank Campbell, Gary McClune, Gary Rafferty, James McGuire, Jim Kelly, Doreena White, Joanna Gray, Mark Lamb, Martin Mc Connel, Paul Dixon, Phil Hynes, Rachael Withers, Sorcha McConnell.

The 2020 meeting was due to start at 12. Noon. As a quorum of 21 clubs had been reached the meeting started promptly.

Due to the virtual format of the AGM, each item was proposed and seconded by the Chair and Secretary of Cycling Ulster. Each item on the agenda passed with an electronic vote by delegates.

Tommy McCague opened the meeting by calling for a minute's silence to remember all those who had passed away since the last AGM.

Adopt standing orders of the AGM

The standing orders for the meeting were contained in the AGM booklet. These were proposed by Tommy McCague, seconded by Claire Young and accepted.

Consider Minutes of the 2019 AGM

Minutes from the 2019 AGM were proposed by Tommy McCague: seconded by Claire Young and accepted.

Financial Statements

The Financial statement to December 2019 approved by Cycling Ireland and the Income and Expenditure Statement up to October 2020 and contained in the Annual Report were proposed for adoption by Tommy McCague; seconded by Claire Young and accepted.

Chairperson's Address and Overview of Activities

Tommy McCague noted that the Covid-19 restrictions had played a significant role in limiting many aspects of what was planned for Cycling Ulster in 2020, particularly many of the on the bike activities. Cycling Ulster had, in the meantime, continued to engage in or initiate various projects to develop cycling in the medium and long term.

Membership

Despite the many challenges that Covid-19 had brought to the sport in 2020, Cycling Ulster remained in a healthy position and was ready to move forward when there is the opportunity to do so. Membership figures were slightly down on previous years and Covid-19 had played a role in that. Currently numbers stand at 5,896 members and 115 clubs.

Advocacy

The increase in recreational cycling by the public and by government had seen Cycling Ulster engage increasingly with regional government and other cycling organisations in the province, including developing a Memorandum of Association with Sustrans. Cycling Ulster was keen to ensure that it was, and is, representative of all cyclists, including recreational and commuter cyclists. CU believe that will be beneficial to it, as an organisation and as a sport, in the time ahead. Cycling Ulster had been represented at regular meetings of the Department for Infrastructure's Cycling and Walking Advisory Group which was setup in June of that year to look at ways to improve cycling infrastructure in the North. It is hoped that this will enable CU to have a voice on the need for greater and improved cycling infrastructure.

Infrastructure Projects

Cycling Ulster is in the process of setting up several regional cycling hubs in the province which will be a base for Cycling Ulster and its clubs to hold courses and events. This has been achieved through funding from the Department for Communities in the North and Cavan County Council have also invested in one. The hubs should be launched and operational in 2021. T McCague stated that there was ongoing work with Belfast City Council and Cycling Ireland on the possibility of developing a multi-discipline cycling facility in the Belfast area. There had been considerable work done on this to date, including a feasibility study. T McCague thanked Anthony Mitchell and Gary Lavery for leading in this project. It is hoped that there will be further progress in the following months. Together with Monaghan County Council and Emyvale CC, Cycling Ulster had been working on the development of Rossmore Park with off-road cycling routes. Over €350,000 from government had been allocated to this project which will be a great boost for cycling in the area.

BMX

Cycling Ulster has worked with the Education Authority to enable members to have access to their BMX track in Armagh. Unfortunately, Covid-19 had also impacted on enabling it to be an active facility during 2020. Newtownards had also benefitted with a 'pump and jump' introduction track being added to the existing pump track there. The planned provincial and national BMX events were all victims of Covid-19.

Off-Road

The year started off well with a successful Ulster Cyclo-cross championship promoted by Omagh Wheelers. Unfortunately, the new cyclo-cross season had just begun when the latest Covid-19 surge suspended these events. The entire domestic cross-country season was also cancelled.

Road

The road racing season had a short window in March in which events took place followed by some more racing between August and October after restrictions were eased. Some Ulster championships managed to take place in this period including the 10 mile time-trial promoted by Ballymena RC, the 25 mile time-trial promoted by Emyvale CC and the hill climb promoted by Roe Valley CC.

Technical Matters

T McCague thanked Aaron Wallace and his team of commissaires for their work and ongoing support to clubs.

Track

Orangefield managed to host some training and events in late summer which included the successful promotion of the Irish junior track championships. Several Ulster riders were successful in these events as well as the national championships in Dublin.

Youth

The CUYA got the year off to a good start with their training day, further plans to extend on this was curtailed by Covid-19. The CUYA adapted however and managed to organise some virtual training sessions on Zwift. Island Wheelers promoted the youth road and time-trial championships in September. Ulster riders were also successful in winning medals at the national youth road and track championships. In preparation for the cyclo-cross season, the CUYA, in conjunction with Cycling Leinster, ran a coaching day in Louth.

Women

The Ulster Women's Road League managed to get one event completed prior to the Covid-19 restrictions in March. As well as the competitive events, the second year of the Women on Wheels project was not possible although the Cycling Ireland Bike Like Me initiative did host some virtual events. There was also an MTB training day for intermediate riders in September which was full to capacity.

Police Engagement

Cycling Ulster continued to liaise with the PSNI during the past year. Unfortunately, it was only a few weeks after the event planning meeting for the year that Covid-19 arrived. T McCague commended the PSNI particularly on their Operation Close Pass and for their support at a number of the events that did take place in the North during the year. Cycling Ulster will continue to engage with the PSNI as it moves into 2021 and likewise with An Garda.

Safeguarding

Due to Covid-19, it was not possible for Cycling Ulster to run any face to face courses during the year. There is a possibility that virtual courses could be in place later in the year.

Commonwealth Games 2022

Julie Rea liaised with the NICGC on behalf of CU and attended several meetings in 2020. There had been ongoing preparations for the 2022 Commonwealth Games over the last year and it is expected that some announcements on this to be made late in 2020 or early 2021.

Support for Charity

Cycling Ulster had hoped to be working in partnership with the NI Hospice for 2020 and had meetings to that effect with the view to organising a charity event. Once again due to Covid these plans could not come to fruition. Cycling Ulster is therefore endorsing Ballymena's Lap the World event in aid of the Hospice and would encourage members to support it if they can. T McCague remarked that many clubs had their own preferred charities and do much needed fund raising for them. CU was especially aware that many of these organisations, who depend on charitable donations, had suffered in their fund-raising activities that year.

Strategic Plan

Cycling Ireland launched their strategic plan for the next four years in 2020 and Cycling Ulster will be developing a provincial plan modelled on this for consistency and to ensure we are all working on the same pathway with the same objectives. This will require regular engagement with the Commissions throughout the period of this plan. Cycling Ulster will be aiming to build on successful initiatives such as the Women on

Wheels project, focusing on developing similar participation projects for other disciplines and youth. Work will continue with the government departments to further enhance the benefit of the hubs and CU was actively pursuing plans for getting a coach funded, through the Department for Communities, who can link in with schools and clubs in the province which will help deliver on the strategic plan. Supporting talented riders will also remain a key target as has been the case in recent years to help Ulster riders on their path to international competition.

Going Forward

T McCague hoped that there will be progress during 2021 towards a return to more regular activities and that he will be able to report on these at next year's AGM. Cycling Ulster is currently in a financially healthy position and looks forward to being able to develop the sport further and support its Commission's activities when the pandemic eases. Communication with members continued as well as possible throughout the year. CU will aim to continue to do this through the website and social media in the coming months. T McCague thanked the Cycling Ulster staff, Patrick Withers and Gary Lavery who have continued to be great support throughout the year.

Special mention for the outgoing Executive member, Mark Moroney who is not running for re-election. Mark has been fantastic to work alongside over the past four years and put in a great effort to assist with improving the sport and the organisation. Many young riders will be grateful for his work in securing grants and funding from the Mary Peter's Trust which benefitted a number of our talented riders.

T McCague finished by thanking Cycling Ulster sponsors, in particular Pactimo, Donnelly Group and O'Reilly Stewart Solicitors as well as everyone on the Cycling Ulster Executive, the Commissions, volunteers, Cycling Ireland and the clubs in Ulster for their continued efforts in supporting cycling in the province. He made special mention of Ronan McLaughlin who was the Cycling Ireland liaison officer to Ulster.

To fix the Cycling Ulster Levy for 2021

Cycling Ulster proposed that the membership levy is set £10 per senior with an exemption for full-time students. This motion was carried

Reports

The following reports were all presented in the AGM booklet; Safeguarding, Road Commission, Track Commission, CU Youth Academy, Off Road Commission, BMX Commission, Women's Commission. CWG Liaison Officer's Report, Mary Peters Trust Report, Technical Officers Report, Membership Development Officer's Report. There were no questions on the reports.

Motions

No motions were received

Election of Officers

There were four nominations for two Executive positions and Joanna Gray and Julie Rea were duly elected

Close of business

The meeting ended at 12.30pm

3. To receive the Financial statement to December 2020 approved by Cycling Ireland and the Income and Expenditure Statement for 10 months ended October 2021

CYCLING ULSTER CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS 2020			
Consolidated Euro, Sterling and PayPal Balance Sheet 01-01-2020 to 31-12-20			
	Stg Conversion@ 0.887 Average		
	Stg Account	Euro Acc	PayPal Acc
Opening Balance as at 1st January 2020	£ 17,013.06	€ 101,530.62	£ 494.10
Total Opening Balance converted to Sterling	£ 107,564.82		
INCOME	Stg Account	Euro Acc	PayPal Acc
Awards Night Income less PayPal Fee of £104.53 (from Paypal)	£ 2,970.47		
Capitation (Converted to Sterling)	£ 11,658.73	€ 13,144.00	
Donation Dave McCall Foundation for CUYA	£ 135.00		
Membership Levy	£ 49,434.28		
Money Transfer from PayPal Account	£ 429.53		
Cycling Ulster Youth Academy Participant Levies Online Course	£ 494.26		
Women's Commission Participant Levies Training Day	£ 90.00		
Total Income (Sterling and Euro)	£ 65,212.27		
EXPENDITURE			
Ambassador Expenses	£ 42.00		
Asset Expenses (Fuel, Tax, Repairs, MOT, Insurance, Branding)	£ 2,891.90		
Awards Night Dinner	£ 4,490.95		
Bank Fees Sterling Account	£ 170.20		
Bank Fees Euro Account	£ 58.56	€ 66.02	
BMX Commission	£ 750.00		
Bursary to Belgian Project	£ 300.00		
CU Leisure Clothing Purchase	£ 640.00		
Cycling Ulster Youth Academy (From Sterling Account)	£ 3,039.87		
Cycling Ulster Youth Academy (From Euro Account Converted)	£ 296.26	€ 334.00	
Event Safety	£ 63.56	€ 71.66	
Executive Expenses	£ 3,063.80		
Marketing and Publicity	£ 632.00		
Off Road Commission	£ 1,188.70		
Prizes and Awards	£ 1,735.34		
Professional Affiliation Fee to NI Sports Forum	£ 140.00		
Road Commission Less Returns	£ 1,050.70		
Technical Budget	£ 328.00		
Track Commission	£ 1,490.30		
Website Annual Hosting	£ 138.00		
Women's Commission	£ 415.05		
Total Expenditure (Sterling and Euro)	£ 22,925.19		
Total Surplus (Deficit) for the year	£ 42,287.08		

Cashflow Statement 2020			
Opening Balance as of 01-01-20	£	107,564.72	As above
Surplus (Deficit for 2020)	£	42,287.08	
Closing Balance as of 31-12-20	£	149,851.80	
Comprising of			
Closing Balance Sterling Account	£	50,170.59	
Closing Balance PayPal Account			£ 64.57
Closing Balance Euro Account (With Conversion)	£	101,299.78	€ 114,204.94
Total of three accounts in sterling	£	151,534.94	
Currency Exchange Rate Difference	£	1,683.14	
Total Cash Balances	£	149,851.80	
Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2020			
Fixed Assets	Equipment	Fitting	Total
Balance as at 31.12.20	£ 7,131.34	£ 66.66	£ 7,198.00
Additions in 2020	£ -	£ -	-
Cumulative Depreciation	£ 2,377.12	£ 22.22	£ 2,399.34
Total Fixed Assets	£ 4,754.22	£ 44.44	£ 4,798.66
Cash at Bank	-	-	£ 149,851.80
Debtors	-	-	-
Total Current Assets	-	-	£ 149,851.80
Liabilities	-	-	-
Creditors	-	-	-
Net Assets less Liabilities			£ 154,650.46

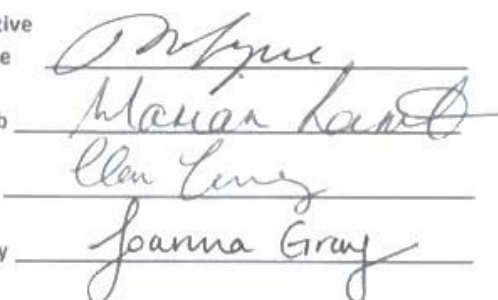
On behalf of the Executive we certify that these accounts represent a true and accurate picture of the financial affairs of Cycling Ulster for the period 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020. These accounts will be presented to the members of Cycling Ulster at the Annual General Meeting to be held on the 20th November 2021.

Signed on behalf of the Executive
Chairperson : Tommy McCague

Acting Treasurer : Marian Lamb

Secretary : Claire Young

Executive Officer : Joanna Gray



CYCLING ULSTER CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET 2021		
Consolidated Euro, Sterling and PayPal Balance Sheet 01-01-2021 to 31-10-21		
	Stg Account	Euro Acc
Opening Balance as at 1st January 2021	£ 50,170.59	
(Euro Conversion to Sterling)	£ 98,558.86	€ 114,204.94
Opening Balance PayPal Account	£ 64.57	
Total Opening Balance (@2020 Conversion Rate)	£ 148,794.02	
	Stg Conversion @ 0.863 Average	
INCOME	Stg Account	Euro Acc
Membership Levies	£ 57,601.00	
Capitation (Euro to Sterling Conversion)	£ 8,850.93	€ 10,256.00
Women's Commission	£ 1,073.63	
National Track Commission Bursary 2021	£ 2,106.49	
National Track Commission Bursary 2020	£ 3,298.39	€ 3,822.00
Total Income	£ 72,930.43	
EXPENDITURE		
Asset expense	£ 63.94	
Bank Fees	£ 125.00	€ -
Bank Fees Euro Account	£ 41.51	€ 48.10
Bursary to Belgian Project	£ 400.00	€ -
CUYA	£ 3,777.70	€ -
CUYA From Euro Account	£ 151.89	€ 176.00
Event Sponsorship	£ 1,100.00	€ -
Executive Expenses	£ 631.16	€ -
Executive Expenses From Euro Account	£ 1,142.35	€ 1,323.70
Health and Safety/PPE Consumables	£ 321.04	€ -
Membership Levy - Covid Return	£ 8,200.00	€ -
Membership Levy - Student Membership Return	£ 1,000.00	€ -
Off Road Commission	£ 3,059.02	€ -
Prizes and Awards	£ 344.91	€ -
Professional Association (NI Sports Forum)	£ 175.00	€ -
Road Commission	£ 2,408.75	€ -
Road Commission From Euro Account	£ 612.73	€ 710.00
Track Commission	£ 4,144.40	€ -
Women's Commission	£ 1,894.40	€ -
Total Expenditure	£ 29,593.80	
Closing Balance Stg Paypal Account of 31-10-21	£ 64.57	
Closing Balance Stg Account as of 31-10-21	£ 83,306.39	
Closing Balance Euro Account as of 31-10-21	£ 108,759.70	€ 126,025.14
Total Cash in Hand as of 31-10-21	£ 192,130.66	
(Euro, Sterling and Paypal)		

Notes to Accounts

Covid 19 has had a significant impact on Cycling Ulster over the past two years. It has severely curtailed the activities of our Commissions and initiatives planned by the Executive. Despite generous budgets allocated to each of our Commissions they were unable to carry out many of the activities due to Coronavirus restrictions. Having said that, they, and indeed the Executive, have found innovative ways to continue their work particularly with young riders. These activities range from providing bursaries for both competitive and development opportunities, online coaching programmes, webinars and upskilling volunteers as Ride and Trail Leaders and these activities are ongoing.

The Executive is very much aware of the impact that the pandemic has had on our members from the closing down of events, the ban on group activities and in some areas the restriction on movement. To this end the Executive agreed to a proposal by the Finance Committee to refund the membership levy to anyone who took out membership up to the 1st May 2021. Only 820 members claimed that refund. 120 students in full time education benefitted from the removal of levy charges for students.

The restrictions on activities caused by the pandemic has left Cycling Ulster in a strong financial position which will enable the Executive to support new initiatives and facilitate Cycling Ulster's plans to feed into Cycling Ireland's Strategy Plans for the next four years.

Finally I would like to thank the Finance Committee of Joanna Gray, Tommy McCague and Oliver Hunter, our long serving Treasurer. Unfortunately Oliver has been shielding for the past two years but he has continued to be supportive of the work of the Executive and we would like to thank him for his dedication to Cycling Ulster over many decades.

Marian Lamb (Acting Treasurer)

Addendum to Accounts

Both the Women's Commission and the CUYA received income from participants for a number of their activities. In some cases this money did not go through Cycling Ulster's Account so in the interest of transparency this income is detailed below.

Women's Commission Income

Event	Tickets	Cancellations	Amount	Amount Net	Account
WC Race	67	1	£798.75	£743.63	CU via Stripe
MTB Training	17	3	£359.20	£330.00	CU via Stripe
Total				£1073.63	Shown in Acc
WOW Strabane/Lifford	23		£368.00	£345.00	CI
WOW Apollo CT	8		£160.00	£150.00	CI
WOW Portadown	10		£128.00	£120.00	CI
WOW Ride Leader Training	4		£127.20	£120.00	CI
Total				£735.00	

Cycling Ulster Youth Academy Income and Expenditure

Youth Crit Series	Income	Expenditure	Profit
Bishop's Court Events (2 Events)	£953.00	£480.00	£473.00
Moneymore (2 Events)	£485.00	£510.50	-£25.50
Nutts Corner (2 Events)	£502.00	£551.00	-£49.00
Totals	£1940.00	£1541.50	£398.50 Returned to CU

4. To fix the Cycling Ulster levy for 2021

Cycling Ulster propose that the membership levy remains at £10 per senior rider with an exemption for students over 18 in full time education.

Cycling Ulster notes that 120 students benefitted from the removal of the levy in 2020 and Cycling Ulster is happy to continue to support its students in these difficult times.

5. To Receive the Following Reports

Chairman's Report

Introduction

While the first half of this year was again impacted by Covid-19 restrictions, as the year progressed, we have managed to return to many of our core activities including having competitive teams representing Ulster, increasing participation, and advocating for more investment and infrastructure.

Membership

Cycling Ulster remains in a healthy position despite the impact that Covid-19 has had on our activities. Our membership figures are slightly up from 2020, currently standing at 6,642 members and 121 affiliated clubs.

Commission Activities

Teams returned to representing Ulster in competition with immediate success taking place at the Newcastle West 4-Day in August when Chris McGlinchey won the opening stage and wore the yellow jersey until the final stage.

Four boys and four girls were selected to take part in the School Games in England which was a combined road and track competition. Sam Coleman took the best result for the team with an excellent second place in the road race. The Youth Academy promoted a criterium series which provided traffic free circuit racing and helped prepare riders for national competition.

A mixture of under 16, junior and elite riders took part in the British National Trophy Cyclo-cross Series in Scotland in October and several riders were awarded bursaries to take part in various off-road events abroad during the year.

The success of our Women on Wheels Road programme has seen it being rolled out across the other provinces through the Bike Like Me Initiative which includes some Sports Partnerships. Three Ulster

clubs promoted the programme directly this year with over 40 novice women cyclists registering. This programme is being expanded to include MTB in 2022.

The Women's Commission also organised a road league which catered for a mixture of categories and was also combined with training and coaching.

Courses

Virtual coaching courses were held during the year which have included training webinars and nutrition workshops for members. Foundation Coaching, Sprocket Rocket and Trail Cycle Leader courses have also taken place.

Infrastructure Projects

The Department for Communities has invested £60,000 in six regional cycling hubs for the development and growth of cycling in the province. We have been working with councils on their location and have ensured a wide geographical spread. These will be used for the delivery of programmes and initiatives and can be utilised by our Commissions and clubs for their activities. Two of these are currently on site and a third hub will be operational by early 2022.

Cavan Sports Partnership has also approved a hub and engagements are also being explored about extending them to Monaghan and Donegal.

Over €350,000 from government has been allocated to developing off-road cycling routes in Rossmore Park, Co. Monaghan which will be a great boost for cycling in the area.

We have agreed a facility use agreement with Belfast City Council for Ormeau Park BMX Track and plans are in place for the refurbishment and upgrade of the track. Armagh BMX Track is another venue that we have been securing better access to for members and clubs which will hopefully be able to be utilised in 2022.

Engagements over the last two years with Belfast City Council about a multi-discipline cycling facility at the Henry Jones Playing Fields has now developed to a stage where it has been recommended for inclusion in the council's Sports Strategic Plan 2021-24.

Major International Competition

I want to congratulate Mark Downey on representing Ireland at this year's Olympic Games in Tokyo. The next major international competition for cyclists from Ulster will be the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham next summer. Julie Rea has been appointed as our representative to the NICGC and has been attending meetings regularly this year in preparation for the event. Anthony Mitchell and Gary McKeegan have been appointed as Manager and Coach respectively by Cycling Ireland.

Road Safety

I want to thank Rosie Leech from the PSNI for her work and engagements with us throughout the year on various matters.

Joanna Gray represented Cycling Ulster at an Operation Close Pass event in the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council area this year. This initiative has events in all areas and highlights the importance of motorists providing enough space when passing cyclists.

There remain challenges with having police support in the short term for our major races and we are pressing for progress on the accredited motorbike marshal training with Cycling Ireland. We are also engaging on legislative changes at Stormont which would enable us to rely less on the PSNI for these events.

Going Forward

A provincial strategic plan has been developed this year which is aligned to the Cycling Ireland Strategic Plan. We have identified actions which we will be seeking to deliver in the short and medium term to support the national strategy.

The regional hubs have the potential to have a transformative effect on our sport by enabling more training courses and coaching events to be organised at a local level. This will upskill our volunteers which improves our clubs and further coaching opportunities will support new members and developing talent. We are also hoping that we will be able to recruit a Youth Development Officer in the coming months which will complement the opportunities created by the hubs.

It is intended that more representative teams will be entered into high level national events and international events in all disciplines which will support a pathway for cyclists to transition from provincial squads to national squads.

Through the Membership Development Officer, work will continue on the implementation of the Cycling Ireland Club Quality Mark System which will improve the capacity and functioning of our clubs to support participation and sport development.

We are continuing to try and broaden our approach and engagements with other sporting organisations, local councils and government departments.

Concluding Remarks

I want to take this opportunity to recognise the immense contribution that Oliver Hunter has made to our sport for many decades. He has been a tremendous volunteer who dedicated so much of his time helping cyclists alongside his wife, Carmel and his daughter Carmel Anne.

I also want to recognise Dylan Lyness for his commitment in recent years following his recent resignation from the Executive.

A special acknowledgement is due to Ciaran McKenna for his support to us during his time as President of Cycling Ireland and wish his successor, Liam Collins all the best and I look forward to working with him over the incoming year.

I want to thank the CU staff, Patrick Withers and Gary Lavery who have continued to be great support to CU throughout the year and Ronan McLaughlin who was our Cycling Ireland Liaison Officer.

Finally, thank you to our sponsors, in particular Pactimo, Donnelly Group and O'Reilly Stewart Solicitors as well as everyone on the CU Executive, CU Commissions, volunteers, Cycling Ireland and the clubs in Ulster for their continued efforts in supporting cycling in the province.

Tommy McCague
Cycling Ulster Chairperson

BMX Commission Report

The clubs promoting BMX activities have been busy during the year with their respective training and racing.

The BMX Commission underwent changes during the year with the Executive's representative to the Commission, Dylan Lyness acting as the interim Chairperson up until October.

There has been a focus at Executive level on developing further facilities for BMX as it is one of the best disciplines for attracting young members and increasing participation levels.

A facility use agreement has been reached with Belfast City Council about Ormeau Park BMX Track and we are hoping more clubs will be able to access Armagh BMX Track in 2022.

The upcoming BMX Commission is an opportunity for new members to come forward and help make progress for the discipline over the next year.

Off-Road Commission Report

The following report is for the activities of the Cycling Ulster Off-road Commission (CUORC) and off-road racing from the period of October 2020 to October 2021. The commission members are elected at their annual AGM. Details can be found on the commission's website www.offroadcyclingulster.com.

The Covid-19 pandemic meant that events didn't start until June 2021.

The first off-road event was a round of the First Track / Vitus series at Big Wood which was held in June and was well attended. Dromara Cycling Club ran an enduro race in October and there was another round of the First Track / Vitus series which took place at Gortin Glen.

The only cross-country race in Ireland was the National Cross-country Championships which took place at Tinkerhill Motorcross circuit outside Newry. We had the biggest attendance in over 10 years.

The 2021/2022 cyclo-cross season has started well with four events completed already. Overall attendance figures are down from 2019 but that would be mainly due to riders not training during the lockdown and limited access to bikes and parts. The Ulster series has six rounds in total and then we have the Ulster championships in December. In January the National Cyclo-cross Championships will be held in Armagh by Square Wheels.

The commission held two training days for riders. The first was a combined cross-country and enduro day at Castlewellan Forest Park in June 2021 for youth riders. The second was an introduction to cyclo-cross day in September 2021 at the new private cyclo-cross track in Portadown – Cyclo-cross NI.

The commission put in place a bursary scheme for 2021 of £150 per rider. This was in place for riders who were travelling outside of the island of Ireland to compete in off-road races. This bursary was for all four off-road disciplines – Enduro, Downhill, Cross-country and Cyclo-cross. To date 14 riders have taken up that bursary. The riders have provided reports which are on our website www.offroadcyclingulster.com.

The commission then took a team of 7 riders to the Cyclo-cross event in Falkirk. This was for Round 3 of the British National Trophy series. Thanks to Graham Boyd, Brendan Doherty, Philip Harkness and Steven Lindsay for managing the team.

Report compiled by Cycling Ulster Off-road Commission

Martin Grimley (Secretary)

Road Commission Report

Unfortunately, Covid-19 has continued to disrupt our activities during 2021.

The traditional early season training event was replaced three online webinars focused on training and nutrition advice. These had current and former elite riders offer their advice as well as qualified coaches and nutritionists.

The competitive programme was reduced to just one event, the Newcastle West 4-Day Stage Race. This was the first team to represent Cycling Ulster since the onset of the pandemic. The team selected was a young squad of riders with an experienced team captain, Chris McGlinchey. Chris won the opening stage, and the team gained a lot of experience on how to ride in defence of a race lead thanks to the advice of Barry Monaghan and Chris' leadership on the road.

We held a dedicated women's online training event early in the year and unfortunately, we were unable to have a women's team represented Ulster in competition due to the limited opportunities available this year.

We are aiming to hold some virtual training events again prior to the 2022 road season as well as our in-person training day and hopefully there will be a return to a more traditional racing programme.

Safeguarding Report

Safeguarding Courses

Safeguarding activities, like many others, suffered because of the pandemic. Cycling Ulster was therefore unable to provide face to face Safeguarding Awareness Training to our clubs. As the year progressed SportNI developed online courses to cover the gap that all sports were experiencing. Many of our clubs/members availed of these courses and continue to contact me in relation to these. From 1st September 2021, Sport NI will no longer be organising and delivering Safeguarding workshops directly but will return to facilitating workshop bookings from Governing Bodies and Local Authorities as was the delivery model pre-pandemic. However Safeguarding Children & Young People and Designated Safeguarding Children's Officer workshop will be available in both the online and face-to-face format depending on which you wish to facilitate. Therefore Safeguarding workshops will only be available to coaches and volunteers by booking a workshop through Sport NI. Enquires received by Sport NI will be directed to contact Local Authority Sports Development Officer for further information. This is a change from current provision and back to how the workshops operated pre-Covid.

Safeguarding Refresher Course

A free on-line Child Safeguarding Refresher course is available from Sport NI.

The Safeguarding Refresher course is for individuals who have previously attended a Sport NI/Cycling Ulster Safeguarding Children & Young People in Sport course within the last 3 years. A new certificate

will be issued to those who successfully pass the online Safeguarding Refresher course. The on-line course is available by going to Sport NI Courses

Please note that if you have not attended the classroom based Safeguarding Children & Young People in Sport course within the last 3 years you are not eligible for this refresher course and should attend a workshop at the earliest possible opportunity.

If you have any queries please contact Sport NI at info@sportni.net or on 02890 381222

AccessNI Vetting

Julie Rea and I have continued to process AccessNI application forms throughout 2021. Identity Validation was the most difficult part at first as it was not possible to meet people in person. AccessNI agreed that the relevant ID Documents could be emailed to the Designated Signatories and this should then be followed up with virtual meeting such as Zoom or Teams. This facilitated the processing of many more applications. A total of 48 applications were processed in 2021 and we currently have 182 members with valid certificates. Some of those will need to renew in 2022.

AccessNI Audit

Cycling Ulster underwent an AccessNI Compliance Audit on 25th August 2021 through a virtual two hour meeting. This was attended by Julie Rea and me and I am pleased to inform the members that we successfully passed this audit and we have been classed as fully compliant.

I am stepping down as Safeguarding Officer this year after holding the post for many years. I would like to thank the Executives, past and present, who were always fully supportive of me and who realised the importance of Safeguarding to our organisation. I would particularly like to thank all those clubs and those involved in projects such as Women on Wheels and AXA Community Bike Rides for their ongoing commitment to AccessNI vetting. A special mention must also be made of Julie Rea who is the counter signatory for AccessNI and who has shadowed me over the past few years. Julie is putting herself forward to take up the reins and has already booked a Designated Safeguarding Officer Course. I wish her the best of luck in the future.

Marian Lamb Safeguarding Officer

Track Commission Report

The Track at Orangefield enjoyed a relatively normal year of activities, getting underway slightly later than usual, in early May, despite the Covid restrictions.

Prior to our season starting the Council had carried out resurfacing to one side of the track, without our knowledge, consultation, or input and whilst it is very much welcome, it serves to highlight the condition of the far side which was and continues to be in a poorer state.

Work is now ongoing to have the other side resurfaced, however costs provided by the same Council contractor seem overpriced due to their costing for an access laneway which we are querying. We hope to make progress prior to the 2022 season, with a meeting with Council staff planned in the coming weeks.

Attendance at both weekly sessions was good with notable drop offs in both at various times with various disciplines competing for rider's attentions.

The younger Youth (Monday) sessions enjoyed a good season for weather which saw no session cancellations. Numbers were positive, averaging 14-15 per session with a noted drop-off after the Youth National Championships, with some ideas being developed to address this going forward. Feedback from participants and parents had been positive and encouraging and hopefully there will be an increase in volunteers to assist in 2022, with a rota planned to ensure continuity. Some helpers had already made themselves known and an open invitation is to be extended to others, with a suggested 2-3 coaches/helpers required as a minimum for each session

Focus for the older Youth riders from midway through the year was selection & attendance at the School Games in Loughborough, and we need to look at ways to maximise training and selection opportunities going forward, should Track Cycling feature in these Games in coming years. We promoted a successful Youth National Championships at Orangefield in 2021, with good support from across the country, and a lot of work from a small team of volunteers ensured a successful day's competition.

We also held an Ulster Track League for both sessions, with attendances steady and competition close. There was a good showing from Ulster riders at national championships, but disappointingly some Ulster athletes still prefer to bypass Orangefield and travel to Sundrive for training & events. Nationally & Internationally Ulster's Junior girls continue to show progress at national squad level with encouraging performances at the European Championships.

A small bursary programme introduced in 2021 by the Ulster Executive seemed popular in assisting Ulster riders to travel to Dublin for national squad training etc., and no doubt helped the above riders as they underwent an extensive pre-Europeans training programme at Sundrive and Majorca.

2021 also saw the Tokyo Olympics take place a year later than advertised, and it is pleasing to note that the only home-grown Track Olympian; Mark Downey, started his Olympic journey at Orangefield. Work and discussions still ongoing with the potential for a new Velodrome & Cycling hub in Belfast, however despite significant resources committed by volunteers & Cycling Ulster/Cycling Ireland there is no real progress to note on that project.

Orangefield Coaches & helpers 2021

Anthony Mitchell.

Paul Dixon.

Gary McClune.

Gary McKeegan.

Doreena White.

Cathal Clarke.

Women's Commission Report

The Women's Commission focused on trying to provide activities for the various levels and interests of women cyclists in the province during the year.

We organised a road league that had over 40 competitors take part in a range of events, beginning with a road race in Newry and a number of races at Bishopscourt track and the Ards Crit.

The Bishopscourt events also enabled us to combine some coaching for riders in a traffic free venue. Collaborating with the Youth Academy was a success and this is something we would look at again in 2022.

The Women on Wheels project saw three clubs take part this year, Apollo CT, Portadown CC and Strabane/Lifford CC. This programme continues to be the basis for increasing female participation and has been rolled out in other provinces. This programme will be expanded next year to include MTB. Over the last few weeks we have organised two online workshops and will have an introduction to racing event on 21st November.

Plans are also underway for expanding the road league next season, hopefully to include more regular road race style events.

Youth Academy Report

At the beginning of 2021 we were fortunate to have the experience of Stephen Gallagher, Dig Deep Coaching develop another round of online training utilizing Zwift. We held these sessions over a six week period, with one session held as a virtual meeting and the riders provided with a training program which they could undertake in their own time.

After the lack of a full racing calendar in 2020, the Ulster Youth Commission worked hard to get a full calendar of events for 2021, this culminated in CUYA Criterium Series run over seven rounds starting in April. We organised three events at Bishopscourt raceway outside Downpatrick on Sundays where we shared the track hire with the Ulster Ladies Commission and had riders from all over Ireland attend the events, at each event we had approx. 85-100 riders. The races at Bishopscourt accommodated Under 6 – Under 16 and consisted of a Time Trial and Criterium for each age bracket.

The mid-week events took place at Nutts corner Raceway and Moneymore Karting Circuit, we had 2 rounds at each of these venues, and consisted of Criterium only event, on average we had 60-70 riders each night, Under 6 – Under 16.

We were lucky to have a number of races make up the Youth Road League for 2021, these were Island Wheelers, Dunloy CC, Foyle CC and Phoenix CC. Thank you to all these clubs for their commitment to youth development in Ulster.

We offered a number of riders a Bursary to attend a very popular event in the UK, the North West Youth Tour, in total we had 12 riders from Ulster attend the event. The event is run over three days and consists of a TT on the opening day, a road race on the second day and finishes with criterium on the final day. In each age category the field of riders could consist of up to 80 riders from all over the UK.

Membership Development Officer Report

Introduction:

As Membership Development Officer for Ulster the following report gives an overview of the activities for the past 12 months Oct 2020 to Oct 2021.

Cycling Hubs Project Phase 1:

Investment of 30k was secured in 2019 for 3 Cycling Hubs in Ulster from the Department of Communities to support the development and growth of cycling in NI.

The Phase 1 Cycling Hubs are to be sited at 3 sites in the following council areas:

- Fermanagh and Omagh Council area:
 - Eccellesville Centre, Fintona.
- Newry, Mourne and Down Council area:
 - Gosford Forest Park, Armagh.
- Causeway Coast and Glens Council area:
 - Jim Watt Sports Centre, Garvagh.

All the 3 hubs are now on site and 2* will be operational from November 2021 for the delivery of programmes and cycling initiatives and the 3rd hub will be operational in early 2022.

Cycling Hubs Project Phase 2:

A second application was submitted in March 2020 and an additional 30k investment was secured for 3 Cycling Hubs in Ulster from the Department of Communities to support the development and growth of cycling in NI.

The Phase 2 Cycling Hubs are to be sited at 3 sites in the following council areas:

- Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon Council area:
 - Gosford Forest Park, Markethill, Armagh.
- Antrim and Newtownabbey Council area:
 - Valley Leisure Centre, Belfast.
- Mid Ulster Council area:
 - Dungannon Park, Dungannon.

MOUs have been drawn up for all 3 sites with CI/CU and the 3 councils and agreed with 2 councils and the 3rd agreement is with the council leisure committee.

The Phase 3 hubs will be onsite and operational in 2022 for the delivery of programmes and cycling initiatives.

Henry Jones Playing Fields Project 2021:

Further meetings have taken place during 2021 with Belfast City Council key staff and local councillors regarding the potential development of a large-scale site for Cycling in Belfast.

A feasibility study was contracted and completed in March-April 2020 by Abacus and the Henry Jones project has now been recommended for inclusion in the new Belfast City Council Sports Strategic Plan 2021-2024 to enable funding to be designated to the project by the council. Further meetings are planned in the coming months.

Ormeau Park BMX Track Project 2021:

Several meetings have taken place with the Cycling Ulster Chairman, the Cycling Ulster Off Road Commission Chairman, Belfast City Council staff and Belfast BMX committee members over the past 12 months and other key stakeholders regarding the re-development and upgrade of Ormeau Park BMX Track.

As a result of the ongoing meetings an application was submitted to the White Mountain Funding Programme in October for 50k to complete the upgrade/refurbishments works of the current track and a facility use agreement has now been agreed with Belfast City Council and Cycling Ulster/Belfast BMX Club.

Club Framework and club Self-Assessment System:

During the last 12 months I have been working with Cycling Ireland staff, Cycling Ulster executive and Cycling Clubs in Ulster on the development of a new “Club Framework” document and a proposed new Club Self-Assessment Online System and Tool Kit which will support all existing cycling clubs adhering to best practice throughout the process to ensure success and achievement. The new framework document will replace the current ClubMark programme so that all clubs in Ireland can access and avail of the resources and support available.

Club Support:

Meetings face to face and (online since March 2021) held with existing and newly established cycling clubs and ongoing regular engagement with the clubs and their committees on the key areas of club development, membership recruitment and retention opportunities, ClubMark, Funding opportunities for clubs, participation programmes and delivery of programmes and coach education courses for volunteers and the recruitment of volunteers.

New Cycling Clubs established in 2021 in Ulster:

1. Loch Moa Cycling Club, Antrim.
2. RWB Cycling Club, Derry.
3. Le-Gall Cycling Club, Antrim
4. Lisburn Outlook Cycling Club, Lisburn
5. The Cloughan Chasers, Antrim

Plans for 2022:

New areas / projects planned for 2022 include the following:

Club Workforce Project:

During 2022 an assessment of current Club Workforce in clubs in Ulster and the areas for potential development with the current and newly established cycling clubs will take place. This assessment of the current club workforce currently in Cycling Clubs in Ulster will help identify the key areas, counties, and clubs for growth in Ulster.

Online Workshops for Clubs:

The development of online support and workshops for clubs in key club development areas including social media, governance, and funding.

All Party Cycling Group and the DFI Cycling and Walking Group:

Further meetings are planned with both these groups, to establish opportunities and support for the development of cycling and cycling infrastructure in NI.

Gary Lavery, Membership Development Officer (Ulster)

Cycling Ireland

Mary Peters Trust Report

The Mary Peters Trust (MPT) continues to support Cycling Ulster athletes by providing funding to young riders across the province, whether disabled or able bodied, to achieve their sporting dreams and ambitions. Over the last several years MPT has provided grants to enable athletes to buy kit, travel to competitions, pay for entrance to events and contribute towards costs for warm weather training.

In 2021, Cycling Ulster submitted six athletes for MPT funding. Four received funding, two females and two males, with a total award of £1900 to help develop their career in sport to the next level.

The Cycling Ulster Executive would like to thank MPT for their continued support of Cycling Ulster athletes.

Joanna Gray Mary Peters Awards Liaison Officer

Commonwealth Games Report 2021

Cycling Ireland have recently appointed Anthony Mitchell & Gary McKeegan as performance leads for the 2022 Commonwealth Games which take place in Birmingham in July 2022.

Both have a long experience with the Games, each having previously managed/coached both Senior & Youth Commonwealth Games in the past.

They will be in charge of process going forward. They have attended several Performance Planning meetings in preparation for Birmingham 2022. Gary McKeegan took part in a recce visit to Birmingham along with other sport performance leads and members of Team NI.

The number of athlete places awarded to Northern Ireland (all sports) has recently been increased from 59 to 66.

The NICGC will select athletes based upon the following ranked criteria:

1. Potential Birmingham 2022 medallist
2. Potential top 8 position at Birmingham 2022
3. Development athlete, on an upwards trajectory within a NGB performance system, with the potential to obtain a top 8 place in future games.

Expressions of interest for consideration for the athlete long list were requested in May 2021 and again in September 2021. In advance of Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, a new Athletes' Advisory Commission has been launched. The 5 member commission will provide advice and act as a consultative body for both the Team NI management and the Board of Commonwealth Games NI.

Cycling Ulster were delighted that Eileen Burns was selected to be part of the panel. Eileen attended the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games in 2018 and will be bring a valuable contribution to the athletes advisory panel.

Julie Rea CWG Liaison Officer

Cycling Ulster Technical Report 2021

Events

As with many other things, the events season was delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions. When the restrictions did ease, permitting restricted gatherings for sporting events, little time was wasted and the first Ulster Road Race event was promoted on Saturday April 24th - The Travers Engineering GP, promoted by Banbridge CC. This was only one day after the easing of restrictions but working together with Cycling Ireland in the run up to the easing of the restrictions we were well prepared with agreed processes to comply with the revised government guidelines. It was certainly a welcome site to see racing back on the roads and the event gave other promoters the confidence and a benchmark to

promote events within the new guidelines. The early events that did proceed were well received and supported, but numbers did decline later in the season – an ongoing challenge for event promoters of late season events.

Due to the season postponement, a number of events were rescheduled, however preference was given to those clubs and event promoters who had events applied for and scheduled in the CI calendar. Only once and if it was confirmed by the event promoter that these events would not proceed would the date be offered up as an option for other event promoters. This was a policy applied by CI. Many thanks to all the event promoters who did host events in 2021. The racing community relies on your ongoing commitment and willingness to give your time and energy.

Thankfully the horizon is a more promising picture for event promotion and it is hoped the road season will commence on the first Saturday in March '22 as per 'normal'. The event application window for 2022 is now closed with almost 60 road event submissions for Ulster.

One of the major disappointments from the 2021 events season was the news that the PSNI was withdrawing operational police support to the Category 'A' & 'B' events. This essentially meant that many of Ulster's higher classification events would be cancelled as they struggled to come up with alternative support solutions with such short notice.

While ongoing discussions take place with the PSNI, Cycling Ulster and Cycling Ireland are actively progressing an accredited marshal scheme to help address the support gap. One of the main obstacles to complete training and accreditation for the accredited marshal scheme is the funding which requires significant investment. Discussions are ongoing between Cycling Ulster and Cycling Ireland to address the funding requirements as a priority.

Commissairing

Following the successful upgrade of a number of Ulster's National Grade B Commissaires to National Grade A in 2019 and 2020 it was disappointing not to be able to give those upgraded Commissaires additional exposure to stage racing and 'point to point' road races which undoubtedly provide a unique environment for Road Commissaire development. Thankfully we did have the promotion of the National Master Road Race & TT Championships by Carn Wheelers in Maghera and a round of the Nation Road Series in Dromore which did give the Grade A Comm's some exposure to higher classification racing, and the added level of governance and administration expected and required from that. It also provided an opportunity to assess one of our most active motorbike Commissaires, James McLaughlin, following which he was successfully upgraded to National Grade A. Congratulations to James on his upgrade. Again with COVID came some additional challenges in 2021, with changes to many regular processes associated with open event promotion. This included mandatory online registration, with no 'on the day' sign-on and the general COVID related restrictions such as social distancing meaning results gathering and even transportation having a very different look and feel from previous years. I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude to all the Ulster Commissaires who adapted and incorporated the revised processes and policies into their duties throughout 2021. I would also like to thank Laura Wilson who again managed Road Commissaire appointments and booking for the province, working and liaising with the CI College of Commissaires.

An additional I had hoped to introduce in 2021 was the use of a bicycle measuring jig at events. The purpose of this was to help both officials and participants become more familiar with the regulations in relation to bicycle set-up for road race and time trial events. This has caused particular challenges at National Time Trial Championships and National Record attempts. The purchase of the jig and

associated equipment was placed on hold while clarification was sought on expected changes to UCI regulations – this has recently been confirmed via the CI Technical Consultant, Paul Watson, and a jig has been ordered for the 2022 season.

Aaron Wallace Technical Officer

6. To elect Officers to the Executive as follows

- Chairperson
 - o Tommy McCague has been nominated by Emyvale CC
- Treasurer
 - o Marian Lamb has been nominated by Phoenix CC
- Safeguarding Officer
 - o Julie Rea has been nominated by Phoenix CC
- Executive Officers
 - o Tommy Lamb has been nominated by Phoenix CC
 - o James McLaughlin has been nominated by Island Wheelers
 - o Paul Sanders has been nominated by Emyvale CC

7. Motions

- No motions have been received#

8. Close of Business

This concludes the business of the Annual General Meeting of Cycling Ulster

9. Insurance Presentation

10. Address by Cycling Ireland President, Mr Liam Collins

11. Presentation of Special Awards