**Minutes of Cycling Ulster AGM held on Thursday 9 November at 19.30 at Quinn’s Corner, Dungannon**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Executive Officers:** Tommy McCague (chair), Paul Sanders (secretary), Marian Lamb (treasurer), Steven Connolly, Joanna Gray, James McLaughlin, Julie Rea & Pamela Ward

**Employees:** Gary Lavery (membership development officer), Gemma McNamara (admin support officer), Paul Watson (Sport & Operations Manager) & Barry Scott (Youth Development Officer)

**Guests:** Tom Daly (President) and Claire Young, Cycling Ireland Board

**Delegates**: Glen Doherty, Jim Kelly, Jack Watson, Gerry Heverin, Caroline Arnott, Rebecca Fitzgerald, Frank Campbell, Noel McLoughlin, Adrian Hughes, Gary Donaldson, Paul Welsh, Eamon Gorman, Martin Grimley, Sean McCourt, Joe McCool, Gary O’Donnell, Colin Wilson

**Apologies:** Dany Blondeel

| **No** | **Discussion** |
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|  | * Tommy McCague opened the meeting by welcoming all present.
* As a quorum of 5% of clubs was reached, the meeting commenced.
* A moment of silence was observed for members and their families who lost their lives over the last year.
* Tommy presented his [chairman’s address](https://www.cyclingulster.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/2023-Cycling-Ulster-AGM-Bookletpdf.pdf).
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| **1.0** | **ADOPTION OF STANDING ORDERS** * The standing orders for the orderly conduct of the AGM, as outlined in the [AGM booklet](https://www.cyclingulster.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/2023-Cycling-Ulster-AGM-Bookletpdf.pdf), were proposed for adoption by Tommy McCague and seconded by Jim Kelly, Island Wheelers.
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| **2.0** | **2022 AGM MINUTES*** The minutes of the last AGM, held on 22 October 2022, were agreed as a true and correct record with no amendments requested.
* These were proposed for adoption by Tommy McCague and seconded by Claire Young.
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| **3.0** | **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS*** The financial statement to December 2022, approved by Cycling Ireland, and the income and expenditure statement for nine months up to end of September 2022, contained in the [AGM booklet](https://www.cyclingulster.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/2023-Cycling-Ulster-AGM-Bookletpdf.pdf), were proposed for adoption by Marian Lamb and seconded by Jim Kelly, Island Wheelers.
* Tommy thanked Marian Lamb for all her hard work in keeping on top of Ulster’s finances and ensuring a strong financial position.
* No queriers were raised.
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| **4.0** | **TO FIX THE CYCLING ULSTER MEMBERSHIP LEVY FOR 2024*** Tommy outlined that in the past, Ulster members paid a £10 levy on top of their Cycling Ireland licence.
* From 2024, an agreement has been put in place with Cycling Ireland that this levy will be paid by Cycling Ireland, to the tune of €75k. The agreement will be reviewed towards the end of next year.
* Cycling Ulster also negotiated with Cycling Ireland that the 2024 membership fee will include personal accident cover, so there will no longer be a choice to opt in or out. The leisure licence will remain at £53 plus event master fees.
* The club affiliation fee of £135 indemnifies club and trustees for public liability and covers three beginner spins for non-members.
* A query was raised from the floor regarding the cost of club affiliation. This was incorrect on the website but has now been rectified and both clubs that paid the additional fee have been refunded. The affiliation fee is £135 until the end of January at which stage a late payment charge is added.
* Queries were raised in relation to event master fees. It was clarified that the fee is a percentage of the total spend and includes stripe card charges. The event master fee was recently renegotiated to lower the percentage by 1.5% following a request at the 2022 Cycling Ireland AGM. The current contract runs until the end of 2026. The fees were benchmarked against a number of other platforms and are in line with similar products.
* Charges for a membership card was raised and it was clarified that long term plans towards becoming a biodegradable organisation include the decommission of plastic cards. Licences can be downloaded and saved onto your device.
* It was noted from the floor that the event master system is a useful and valuable system.
* Paul Watson to check fees charged on club membership monies as a club in ROI reported that this fee was absorbed when they renewed.
* Camlough CC raised a number of other queries on behalf of their members and responses were given as follows a) the affiliation fee for clubs is £135 and covers clubs for public liability €13m and professional indemnity of €1m, b) personal accident insurance is now included in £53 leisure membership and includes death €15k, permanent disablement €15k, medical expenses €2500, dental €2500, physio €250, loss of income €150 per week, c) personal accident insurance is the same for members located in the North and South, d) membership is the same in all provinces this year, e) the insurance broker is Allianz and covers both North and South. Paul from Camlough reported on behalf of his members the difficulty in being able to justify £53 for a leisure licence given they can access a better insurance cover that includes member to member for a similar cost. The club are no longer interested in sportives or running the Hog Run or Spring 60, so the membership vs one day licence argument isn’t an advantage.
* Paul Watson added that there should be a focus on the other elements that the membership fee includes and not just insurance. These include being part of an all Ireland federation, training and coaching opportunities, a National leisure series, staff employed who can provide support, monthly review meetings with the insurance broker, support for events from youth to masters, accredited marshal training, and investing in the future of the sport.
* A query was raised from the floor in relation to the current personal accident insurance covering medical expenses but residents in North free medical cover through the NHS and should a different policy be negotiated for NI. Another query was then raised that those in ROI may be disgruntled if a different policy is available for NI residents.
* The CEO is currently looking at a possible family membership of two adults and unlimited children and is also looking at the NI insurance offering given part of the current offer is not applicable to NI residents.
* A query was raised from the floor relating to the one day licence charge and how whilst the model to try and increase membership is recognised, it has meant that event organisers have decided to seek their own insurance so that participants don’t have to pay this additional cost. Couple this with Cycling UK membership being a cheaper option more needs to be done to market the other things that Cycling Ireland membership fees is used for.
* Tom Daly, President of Cycling Ireland spoke of the difficulties faced but that headway has been made, a new constitution has been adopted, a governance overhaul to bring the organisation into a much better place for the future and that it will take time for the benefits of this work to seep down into the membership. The data coming out of event master will help the organisation to make better strategic decisions going forward. Responsibility for youth development has transferred to the CEO. The overall aim is to promote cycling and create an infrastructure for members and volunteers.
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| **5.0** | **TO RECEIVE REPORTS*** All commission reports were taken as read, proposed by Tommy McCague and seconded by Tommy Lamb.
* Discussion ensued on issues members are experiencing when reporting incidents on the road to the PSNI. Any issues should be sent to chair@cyclingulster.com and these will be raised with the PSNI.
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| **6.0** | **TO ELECT OFFICERS TO THE EXECUTIVE** |
|  | * The following officers were duly elected as follows:
* Pamela Ward, proposed by VC Glendale as Safegarding Officer and seconded by Glen Doherty.
* James McLaughlin, proposed by Island Wheelers as an Executive Officer and seconded by Glen Doherty.
* Steven Connolly, proposed by DB Cycling Club as an Executive Officer and seconded by Glen Doherty.
* Sean McCourt, proposed by VC Glendale as an Executive officer and seconded by Glen
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| **7.0** | **MOTIONS*** Belfast City BMX Club proposed the following motion ‘some commissions are made up of only a small number of clubs. To ensure a fair and equal representation, it is proposed that the following approach be taken when filling the posts in commissions made up of four clubs or less:

1. The commission is comprised of no more than eight people (plus a CU rep) and where possible, shall be made up of equal numbers from each club represented.2. The roles of chair and secretary of the commission are rotated between clubs each year with a rep from different clubs each holding one position.Commissions should develop a rota system to ensure fair and equal representation and sharing of roles/responsibilities between all clubs.* The motion was debated. It was felt the wording was onerous for all disciplines.
* No other BMX clubs were present.
* The CEO and Paul Watson will be working with the BMX commission.
* Terms of reference and roles and responsibilities will be developed for each commission and it has been agreed the maximum number of members in each will be capped at eight.
* The motion was withdrawn.
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| **8.0** | **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** * The presentation of special awards will be made at the award celebration on 28 January 2024.
* Jim Kelly thanked the cycling community and the support of Cycling Ireland when arranging the nationals earlier this year.
* There being no other items of business the meeting concluded
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