



REPORT TO THE MANCHESTER REGIONAL TRACK LEAGUE AGM 10.3.20

I would like to open my report as I do every year - it is only with the great team I have behind me that the league is able to continue. As we are now in our 26th year I am eternally grateful to all the officials and technical services crew who turn up to support the league - a great big thanks to each and every one of them, I couldn't do it without their help.

The Track League at present is lucky to have a great team of officials working on it and we pride ourselves on running the league as professionally as any open meeting and have very favourable comments made by both riders and visiting officials from other regions and track leagues.

We continue to act as a training venue for Track Commissaires from outside our Region, together with those from the North West. We have over the past 12 months trained and upgraded 2 trainees and they should be congratulated on their achievement. We have a very thorough training process and are confident that once upgraded our trainees have the ability to take on the role of Chief Commissaire at any track meeting that they may officiate at. We have 1 person currently in training and he will complete his logbook early in our next session.

The racing on both nights I feel has been very competitive, with Chris Walkinshaw taking the First Division title, Eve Davies-Heywood the Ladies Championship and Adam Duggleby the Premier Division winner.

A competitively fought Friday night league resulted in 9 riders gaining promotion to the Premier Division for the 2020 season. All riders gaining promotion are written to reiterating the fact that the standard of racing and riders on a Tuesday is very high any bad behaviour and attitude both on and off the bike to officials and fellow competitors will not be tolerated. 1 rider following promotion has asked to be put back to Friday league which has been granted. All riders for the present year have been reminded of Tech regulation 8.1.2. that states that when competing riders shall wear club registered design colours as appropriate, the only exceptions to this are Youth riders, 4th cat riders, provisional licence holders. It has also been reiterated that bad language and behaviour will not be tolerated either on the track or in the D and action will be taken against any rider.

During the year, we held 20 weeks of racing, losing 1 Tuesdays & 3 Fridays due to a Major event at the NCC. Registered riders for 2019 were 296 (326 – 2018) this breaks down to 89 Youth (67 Boys & 22 Girls), 48 Juniors (35 Boys & 13 Girls) 159 Seniors (126 Men & 33 Women). The figures can be further broken down to 232 registered riders for Friday and 64 Tuesday.

Moving onto 2020 with numbers down, I'm open to any suggestions to improve this situation. Although reluctant to give up the Tuesdays, or weaken the quality of the racing, with Fridays not oversubscribed I don't feel promoting more riders would alleviate the situation. Of the 9 promoted only 3 have ridden regularly, whereas on Fridays they rode every week. I completely understand the fact that we can't continue losing vast amounts of money on a Tuesday.

The whole situation deeply saddens me, the same amount of effort goes into organising be it 1 rider or 100 riders, I feel embarrassed asking our loyal officials to come out every week to not have double figures of riders wanting to take up the racing. I have no answers to why numbers on a Tuesday are so low, maybe there has been a change in training options with Zwift & similar becoming more popular or maybe Track just isn't as popular and for that we have to adapt our schedule to. A survey has been sent to all registered Tuesday riders to ask for suggestions & comments.

Carole Leigh
Organiser MRTL
March 2020