



THE SOUTH DOWNS SOCIAL

# WessexCX League

## Wessex Cyclo-cross League AGM 2026

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 7pm

South Downs Social, 3-4 Kings Walk, Winchester, SO23 8AF

**Attendees:** Pete Hargroves (Committee), Kerie Wallace (Committee), Keith Pitcher (Committee), Theresa Stubbs (Committee), Adam Buckland (Committee), Alan Collins (Committee), Alex Watkins (Committee), Malcolm Cross (Committee), Jez Hart (Committee), Simon Pattinson (Committee), Richard Bremner (NHRC), Tracy Bremner (Pedal On), Dave Ridge (Reading CC), Christinas Gustafsson (Reading CC), Duncan Edwards (Braishfield CC), Dave Wrey (Pedal On), Geoff Wrey (SRAM), Paul Hartland (GS Henley), Angus Wells (Individual), Phil Brown (New Forest CC), Emma Sheperd (New Forest CC), Graham Hurst (Poole Wheelers), Tony Hamilton (SRAM), Tom Allen (Ignite), Kyran Levey (Ignite), Mark Allen (Sotonia), Angus Fileman (Fareham Wheelers), Charlie Elsey (Newbury Velo), Ian McDonald (GS Vecchi), Simon Pattinson (Solent Pirates), Fletcher Adams (Nova RT), Amy Budd (Sarum Velo), Chris Hill (Poole Wheelers), Jorge Manso (VC Venta), Chris Hutchings (VC Venta).

### Minutes of the last AGM approval

Approved with no changes.

**Introduction:** Pete Hargroves welcomed everyone and introduced the meeting.

### Reports:

#### Secretary - Keith Pitcher

Welcome everyone, thank you all for attending. Thank you Neil and your team for hosting us again for the AGM.

Thank you to all the race organisers and volunteers for putting on another great season. We had 12 Wessex rounds this season, unfortunately we lost the Crabwood event quite late on due to the works at Southampton Sport Centre. But we did have a new venue with VC Venta at Chilton Manor Farm.

We ran the automated gridding software again this season – thanks to Mark Allen for continuing with this task. Unfortunately due to BC updating their website we can no longer access results from other leagues meaning additional work for Mark when gridding out of area riders. We are planning to create our own gridding system next season – partly to save league costs, so if any IT gurus out there are interested in helping out please let the committee know.

Thanks to all of the committee members for all their hard work this season, there is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes that most people don't know about. And thanks to Simon who is stepping down as Youth Rider rep. His experience with youth racing has been extremely beneficial to the league over that last 5 years.

The committee are always open to suggestions on how to improve the league, how we can support riders and organisers. As a way of boosting numbers for the Senior Open race we have proposed a change to the race schedule, which has generated some online discussions, hopefully we'll have a good debate about it later and work out a schedule that suits everyone.

### Treasurer - Kerie Wallace

It was thought at the beginning of the Season that we would be in for a 'tough time' due to the predicted fall in racing numbers, BC have had a 4.5% year on year decrease over the last six years or so, indeed our own fall last season was 5%. Accordingly, and in order to support the race organisers, by covering some of their usual costs, we set a negative budget, a predicted loss of £730 for the Season, however, this Season we have actually, kept virtually the same racing numbers, meaning we actually produced a small surplus of £375.

I am though, not happy with this surplus, as, in my opinion it has come at the expense of the payments we make to our Commissaires. BC have forced us to change the way we reimburse money to cover expenses, so, the small surplus is more than entirely due to the lower monies reimbursed to the Commissaires. We will be looking at ways, for next Season, that we can fairly reimburse the Commissaires expenses. Without Commissaires we would not have any races, and they should not be out of pocket.

The end of year figures are –

Opening Balance at the beginning of the Cyclo-Coss Year -	£10,339.22
League Membership Fees -	£ 2,240.00
Race Levies, less cost of race medals -	£15,438.95
Levies paid to BC -	(£11,823.50)
South Downs Social sponsorship -	£ 500.00
Expenses (race numbers, commissaires expenses, bank charges etc. -	(£ 3,084.05)
End of Season Celebration (engraving, prizes, certificates -	(£ 2,872.42)
Celebration Evening (room hire and food) -	<u>(£ 23.00)</u>
Closing Balance at the end of the Cyclo-Cross Year -	<b>£10,715.20</b>
This represented by –	
Current Bank Balance -	<b>£11,905.19</b>
Prizes for 2025/2026 Season not yet paid -	- £ 1,680.00
South Down Social sponsorship money not yet received -	- £ 500.00
Planned end of year Bank Balance -	<b>£10,725.19*</b>
Less Reserves - National Trophy -	£ 293.65
General -	£ 1,000.00
Levies -	£ 1,600.00
Available Funds -	<b>£ 7,831.54</b>

\* There is a £9.99 positive discrepancy, brought forward from last year.

We have assets of about £200 with SoStudio, this being the decals for our Wessex branded clothing.

We have assets of about £740 with Trophyman, this being the medals they are holding in stock.

We have assets of about £1,500 for all our course marking equipment.

A huge thanks to Neil Wyatt and South Downs Social for their sponsorship of the League and our Champions prizes.

Taking all the above into account, I can state that broadly speaking we are in roughly the same financial position as at the end of last Season.

All receipts etc. are available for inspection at the AGM.

Moving forward for next year, I can see things being equally tough, with our Race Organisers needing to continue to work hard to ensure their events attract all the riders possible. With our League sponsorship, by South Downs Social, now at an end, and the need for proper reimbursement to our Commissaires, it is prudent that we look to increase some of our income in areas where we have significant expense. The Proposals in the AGM, for increases Affiliation Fees and Levies will bring in approximately £1000, this additional money will be used to properly reimburse Commissaires and make up the sponsorship shortfall. It would also be good, if we can help some of the Organisers who have huge venue hire fees, we have already seen the loss of one event for next Seasons, due to venue fees of £2,500 plus!

League Secretary - Kerie Wallace

Well, that's a wrap then, the end of another successful Season, the 2025/2026 Season. But was it a success?

Looking at the numbers of riders racing, and the results of Wessex riders at Regional and National events, I'm not so sure. Our rider numbers have just about held their own, and our rider's success has been significant at a Regional Level, however, in the Nationals and the National Trophy races, our Wessex riders appear not to have travelled far and wide.

Special thanks need to go to –

Mark Allan for pulling together the gridding for each event. This was even harder this year, as BC didn't allow us to directly use their data, but even so, we Probably have the Best Gridding System if the land.

Alan Collins for coordinating the team of commissionaires. It was a smaller pool of commissionaires this year, meaning more trips out for them. If you want to be a commissionaire, please contact Alan. You know Alan, he is the one in the red and white stripy jumper under his BC clothing.

Simon Pattinson and his Solent Pirates Team, plus a huge band of volunteers, for bringing another round of the National Trophy to Wessex. Simon has been rewarded by BC, due to the high standard of his events, the 2026 National Championships. So, no excuses for not entering the Nationals next season, they are on your doorstep. All the Organisers and all the Event helpers for putting on the Cyclo-Cross meetings.

Adam Buckland, for not only being our Chip Timing Man, but also for the huge input he makes into several of the events. Adam has also been 'rewarded' by BC, he is to Chip Time all the Trophy Events and the Nationals next Season.

Neil Wyatt and The South Downs Social for their sponsorship of the League and our Champions prizes. This has been The South Downs Socials third Season of Sponsorship, which has proved a good fit for both parties, thank you Neil.

I still believe we have 'Probably the Best Cyclo-Cross League' in Great Britain, and maybe we have stemmed the tide of losing riders, but it does seem very precarious.

The number of riders racing in the Wessex League is at its lowest ebb for a decade.

Below are the usual facts, figures and comparisons with previous seasons –

We had 12 League events, plus the South of England Championships, the same as last Season.

We had 697 point/participating scoring riders, an increase of 3 riders from last season.

The average number of riders per race meeting is 329 , down on last season's 332 .

We paid BC £ 10,823.50 in levies.

We had 44 affiliated Clubs, seven less than last season, and 22 individual members, up 1 .

Total number of point scoring Cyclo-Cross riders –

<b>Category</b>	<b>01/02</b>	<b>02/03</b>	<b>03/04</b>	<b>04/05</b>	<b>05/06</b>	<b>06/07</b>	<b>07/08</b>	<b>08/09</b>	<b>09/10</b>	<b>10/11</b>	<b>11/12</b>	<b>12/13</b>	<b>13/14</b>
U12	46	40	56	42	25	32	58	88	81	92	97	143	164
Youths	30	22	33	26	19	26	27	35	35	49	42	68	69
Junior Men	4	7	5	2	1	1	3	6	8	10	15	14	8
Sen/U23	54	50	30	43	43	56	55	87	69	66	68	80	97
Veteran	34	35	34	36	37	51	55	59	70	92	96	96	141
Women	10	6	6	12	10	12	11	15	18	15	27	19	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>499</b>
<b>Category</b>	<b>14/15</b>	<b>15/16</b>	<b>16/17</b>	<b>17/18</b>	<b>18/19</b>	<b>19/20</b>	<b>21/22</b>	<b>22/23</b>	<b>23/24</b>	<b>24/25</b>	<b>25/26</b>	<b>% Change</b>	
U12	188	217	228	278	259	241	195	240	230	236	256	+ 8%	
Youths	110	117	103	103	125	147	168	166	141	126	129	+ 2%	
Junior Men	12	11	24	22	21	21	11	29	26	21	16	- 24%	
Junior Women							5	11	9	6	9	+ 50%	
Sen/U23	115	140	132	129	113	120	88	100	81	55	63	+ 15%	
Veteran	193	218	198	245	216	244	246	236	245	209	185	- 13%	
Women	34	43	64	61	87	78	71	56	59	41	39	- 5%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>652</b>	<b>746</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>838</b>	<b>821</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>838</b>	<b>791</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>697</b>	<b>+ 0.5%</b>	

Tim Doole has also been looking through our races, and has also come up with some interesting facts –

Over 400 riders only raced in 1 event

Over 100 riders only raced in 2 events

Imagine if we could convince these riders to race a full season, wouldn't it be great, but why are they currently turning away?

About 13% of those who race, are not affiliated to Wessex, what could be the reason they don't want their points?

In total 1,109 different riders raced in Wessex, racing 3,947 times.

Apparently the most common Christian Name is Matt/Matthew with 53 riders, followed by Jo with 36 riders.

Now, I have heard it said that Wessex Cyclo Cross is more expensive than other Leagues, well, I don't think you are comparing like for like, or indeed, considering the quality and product that Wessex give you, you get –

A first class, on the day, full results service with live timing and on your phone data.

A full team of three commissionaires, giving you full race cover, back up results and quick decisions.

Full female and open toilet facilities, no hedges harmed at our events

Professional First Aid Cover, with a vehicle.

A completely unbiased Gridding system.

And of course you race your friends in a competitive, fun atmosphere.

As a Committee we are committed to ensure we offer the best racing provision we can, this does cost money, so if you want a race where you can compete in the fairest atmosphere, with rules properly applied, and should you have an accident, you will be professionally looked after, then Wessex is the place to race.

Another huge cost is the venue, anywhere from £700 to £2,500, so between £2 and £4 a rider. It should be noted that one of our regular rounds will be missing next season. The Committee agreed with the Organiser that the quoted cost for the venue for next season, was just too great. However, how much would you as a rider pay to enter a Wessex event?

Time now for some more figures and food for thought –

There have been 697 Wessex riders this season, which, shall we conservatively say, have been supported by 1,000 helpers. There have been 12 Wessex Organisers, which, shall we exaggerate and say, have been supported by 240 helpers. This means, 1,697 – 252 leaves, 1,455 who could offer their services to a Wessex Organiser, or indeed, promote a race themselves. Now this maybe a simplistic approach, but it is hard to argue that there are not hundreds of people out there who could make a volunteering difference the Wessex Races. The Wessex Racing Calendar for next Season is nearly ready, just a couple of dates and venues to agree, you will however see a difference, when compared to previous seasons. Firstly, British Cycling are ruling that no League events will clash with the dates of the National Trophy events, or indeed the World Cup in Scotland. Secondly, Wessex will leave a couple of weekends free of a race. These two strategies will enable you to race National Trophies, with out losing Wessex points, and/or have rest periods through the Season. So, what is left to do, attend the AGM, it is sure to be lively! The proposals, all there with the intention to improve Cyclo Cross in Wessex, are to be debated, amendments made, voted for, or voted against, but whatever your thoughts, please be friendly.

## Election of Wessex League officers

Chairperson:	Pete Hargroves
Vice Chairperson:	Theresa Stubbs
Secretary:	Keith Pitcher
League Secretary:	Kerie Wallace
Commissaire Co-coordinator:	Alan Collins
Event Co-ordinator:	Malcolm Cross
Event Logistic/Support Officer:	Adam Buckland
Riders representative:	Alex Watkins
Female Riders Representative:	Caroline Duffell
Youth Rider representative:	Vacant
Website Administrator:	Jez Hart
Treasurer:	Kerie Wallace
BC Liaison Officer	Mark Adams

*Officers re-elected.*

Youth Rider Representative: Simon Pattinson is stepping down from the committee and proposes that Emilie Mar-Molinero replaces him in the role. Emily is a parent of two committed bike racing daughters and a long time active volunteer at Solent Pirates Youth Cycling Club. Emily is a keen student of best practice and appropriateness in youth sport with first hand experience of how best to shape sport for life. Emile will make very useful contributions to the future of the league.

*Emily elected.*

## 2026 Rule Proposals:

1. **Raise affiliation fees:** Proposer & Seconder: Wessex CX Committee.

Clubs - £40 to £50

Individuals - £20 to ~~£30~~ **£25**

To ensure the financial viability of the League

*Passed*

2. **Raise Wessex Levies:** Proposer & Seconder: Wessex CX Committee.

Under 12's - 80p to £1

Youth - 80p to £1

Juniors etc. To stay at £1

To ensure the financial viability of the League

*Passed*

**3. To change around the Race programme order:**

Proposer & Seconder: Wessex CX Committee.

9:00	Open Master 40 & Open Junior	40 mins
10:00	Women (Junior, U23 & Masters)	40 mins
11:00	U8	10 mins
11:25	U10	10 mins
11:50	U12	15 mins
	<i>Practice</i>	
12:45	Youth	30 mins
13:30	Senior Open	60 mins
14:50	Open Master 50 & 60	40 mins

Actual times to be agreed.

To enable our U12's and Youth riders to watch the Senior Open and bring the Senior Open in to better place in the day.

*There was no clear consensus on changing the race order so it was agreed that the proposal would be returned to the committee for review. Any new proposals would then be shared with all who attended the AGM (via email) for voting.*

**4. Booking of events:** Proposer & Seconder: Wessex CX Committee.

Not allowing organisers to book their following season promotion until either the current league has run all of it's races, and only after the committee have advised available dates to ensure there is no damaging or not permitted clashes..

This would give organisers and equal and fair opportunity to make books for a date in the season that best suits their organisation group and circumstances. It would go some way towards reducing the burden that is currently sat with League Event Organiser. It would also give new new/potential organisers the chance to promote more fairly rather than them just having to flex around the existing. This may mean that not all promoters have a slot each year but new organisers/venues might and from a riders point of view this might not be a bad thing. Events to be submitted to the League Event Organiser via a Tender Form.

***Passed***

**5. Making a Difference Trophy:** Proposer & Seconder: Wessex CX Committee.

Awarded to a League Organiser, Official or Rider who has made a significant contribution to Wessex Cyclo Cross in the previous Season/Seasons. *This is to be decided by the previous 3 winners (who are still active in The League) and should not be awarded to the same person twice for the same role.*

***Passed***

6. **Open V50/60 races:** Proposed by: Richie Bremner. Seconded by: Tracy Bremner  
“I would like to propose that the v60 start 1 minute behind v50 to bring us in line with Trophy and championship events, and also improve safety for slower v60 riders who often get involved in skirmishes with the first 20-25 v50 riders as they pass, often with little or no warning shouting and in sections of course where over taking is difficult. Generally the split has been a success, just needs a tweak.”

***Rejected***

*Gap between starts may be up to 2 minutes, depending on the course & conditions, at the discretion of the commissaires.*

7. **There is a price cap on all U12 races.**

Proposed by: Christina Gustafson, Reading CC, Seconded: David Ridge, Reading CC  
The maximum fee to be decided by Wessex committee

***Passed***

8. **There is a price cap on all U16 races.**

Proposed by: Christina Gustafson, Reading CC. Seconded: David Ridge, Reading CC  
The maximum to be decided by Wessex committee

***Passed***

### **AOB**

Simon Pattinson reminded everyone that the National Cyclo-cross Championships will be at Clanfield on Saturday 9 January – Sunday 10 January 2027 and would encourage people to enter the race or volunteer to help.