



## **North West Region Road Workgroup**

### **Annual Report**

**24 August 2019**

#### ***Background***

The workgroup was established by the British Cycling North West Regional Board with a remit of engaging with present and future planning and with problem solving for the road calendar in the area.

The first meeting was held at the National Cycling Centre on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2019. This meeting had the agenda of formalising the aims of the group. An overview of the present road situation with comparison to past seasons was presented by the Region's Regional Events Officer ("REO"). A discussion then followed about how the racing programme provided by the Region should be balanced with respect to gender, type of race and location.

#### ***Challenges during the Season***

Future meetings were held via conference call to facilitate having as wide a spectrum of participants as possible. This was to ensure balance within each meeting's findings with additional participation coming from the Regional Board's Women's Workgroup following issues that ensued as the season developed.

The agenda for the meetings held by telephone conference was dominated by the issues surrounding the cancellation of races mid-season due to lack of accredited marshals ("ACMs"). An action plan was devised by the Workgroup with a view to saving as many of the late season races as feasibly possible. The main action points of this plan were undertaken by the REO, with two training sessions being organised to bring new volunteers to the regional roster and increasing the number of ACMs available to assist organisers in the Region.

By issuing statements through social media to make the members aware of the challenges the road scene was facing and how they could get involved to help, significant interest was generated for the training sessions. Consequently, these sessions were well-attended, and the requisite numbers were brought in which ensured that the majority of the regional road racing programme could continue.

The ability for this timely intervention and its actioning was a credit to all involved, delivering through good communication a quick resolution to the challenges faced and to similar problems that could arise again.

#### ***Forward Planning***

Given the challenges that have arisen this season with regards to volunteer resources, both from an ACM and a commissaires perspective, we are looking at streamlining the process to make that more effective thus improving both the rider and volunteer experience.

Following on from both the initial discussions around the calendar and the challenges faced by those involved, a new timeline has been agreed with regards to registering races and appointing officials to those races, to ensure that resources can be managed appropriately. This will be communicated shortly.



### ***Risk Assessments and Courses***

We have also discussed the risk assessments, especially on the longer courses, and whether the new risk assessments have placed a burden which is too resource-heavy on certain circuits. We have agreed to review the circuits currently being used, with a view to ensuring that they are suitable moving forwards. This may mean that new courses will need to be considered, and this will be discussed with the new Regional Competition Administrator once he is in post.

In particular, it is noted that there are currently no circuits being used south of the M58 and we will therefore be looking at addressing this issue to ensure that there are adequate opportunities for all of our membership throughout the North West Region. We will be reviewing the road racing position in Cheshire and the south of the Region as part of this process.

Fred Bamforth  
Chair – NW Regional Road Workgroup

Fred Bamforth  
Chair – NW Regional Road Workgroup