

CTT NORTH EAST DISTRICT – ANNUAL REPORT – 2023

1. District Committee

The District Committee for 2023 was elected with a committee of 9 members and continued with a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Events Secretary and Risk Assessment Co-ordinator. The Risk Assessment Co-ordinator has continued to be an essential role supporting the District, particularly where we have new courses within the District.

During the course of 2023 Nev Martin resigned from the role of Risk Assessment Co-ordinator and the role was taken up on a short term basis for the remainder of the 2023 event season by Julian MacBride. Significant thanks are recorded within the report to Nev Martin, supported by Ray Lockett for the excellent work during his time as Risk Assessment Co-ordinator, supporting current and new Risk Assessment requirements and providing sage advice and guidance on matters with a Risk / Health and Safety perspective. Thanks are also recorded to Julian MacBride who took up the role at short notice and has provided the District with Risk Assessment support as a stopgap until a new Risk Assessment Co-ordinator is appointed – more of that later in the report.

Ray Lockett continued to fulfil a role for NE District as Course Measurer, as well as supporting the Risk Assessment activity. Ray had made it very clear that he would be unable to continue to support this role going forward and the District, therefore, looked for new volunteers to step forward and undertake the activity of Course Measurement for the District. Mel and Jim Bridges put themselves forward as volunteers, as well as Peter Schultz, and they have now all been trained in the skills of course measuring and have taken over the role from Ray. Significant thanks are recorded in the annual report to Ray for his substantial contribution as Course Measurer – the importance of his contribution and the role cannot be understated as without course measuring for all courses but notably for standard distance courses, we would simply not have courses upon which to run our events. Thanks to Mel, Jim and Peter for volunteering – your contribution is very much appreciated and it is great to have some different faces amongst our CTT volunteering community. Mel and Jim have already been heavily involved, undertaking a course measuring check for our M101 course on the A189 ahead of the National 10m Championships in September 2023.

There have been two District Committee resignations during 2023. Mick Chappell who has served on the committee for c.4 years tendered his resignation earlier in the year and the District places on record our thanks for the contribution from Mick during that period. Ray Lockett after 30 years of serving the NE District Committee in a variety of roles and activities has also given his notice to leave the committee after the 2023 Annual General Meeting. More of this later in the report.

2. Club Affiliations

The affiliation process was completed in a timely manner with a large number of re-affiliations completed very early in the process which is very much appreciated by the

District Treasurer. The District has 49 Clubs affiliated to the CTT. No new clubs were affiliated in 2023.

3. District Events:-

The summary of District Events is as follows:-

a. Open Events

38 open events were planned by clubs within the District during 2023 (including the separate tandem events and the separate National 10 Championships). 3 events were cancelled with reasons as follows:-

Vector Racing (1st July) due to low numbers

Allen Valley Velo (16th July) due to strong winds

Barnesbury CC (23rd July) due to heavy rain

30 events have been successfully completed – all remaining events to be completed are all Hill Climb events.

b. Club Events

Club Events were applied for by 4 clubs and all club events have now been completed with a total of 33 club events held in North East District in 2023.

Tyneside Vagabonds – planned 7 events (0 cancelled)

Barnesbury CC – planned 11 events (2 cancelled – due to roadworks and bad weather)

Derwentside CC – planned 12 events (2 cancelled – due to bad weather)

Team Kirkley Cycles – planned 3 events (0 cancelled)

Thanks go out to the 4 clubs who have hosted club events in the year as this is a great opportunity to be introduced to the sport of time-trialling – to test and hone your time-trialling skills.

4. Accidents

There have (thus far) been 5 accidents reported to National by the District this year, 1 less than 2023:-

- 2 x accidents at the NTR 50m Event – separate incidents
- 1 x accident at the Blaydon CC 2-Up Event
- 1 x accident at the Tyneside Vagabonds 100m Event
- 1 x accident at the Team Kirkley Cycles Club Event

All accident reports were reviewed, with no further actions required and no resultant updates to the Risk Assessments. One was rider error and four were due to road surface conditions.

The District wishes to remind all clubs that are affiliated to the District that it is their and their riders' responsibility to ensure that when they are competing in CTT events (either Open or Club) that they are doing so in full compliance with the CTT Rules and Regulations but also with the Observance of the Law. This includes awareness of and compliance with any relevant Local Regulations that have been approved. In the case of North East District, Local Regulations have been approved with regard to Right Hand Turns on courses and with regard to Bike Changes within Longer Distance events. Clear rider instructions are included in the Risk Assessment and on the relevant start sheets. In spite of this, there have been:-

6 x DQ in the Barnesbury CC M21 Event on 1/4/23

4 x DQ in the Tyneside Vagabonds MTT M47 Event on 15/5/23

All related to right hand turns.

In addition there have been:-

6 x DQ in the Derwentside CCC M107 Event on 1/7/23

All related to left hand turns.

This is by far the highest number of disqualifications that have been evidenced in the District and the Local Regulation has been in place for many years now.

Following a suggestion put forward, the Risk Assessments for the courses with Right Hand Turns will be updated to include a further Cycle Event sign positioned on the approach to the relevant junction with a supplementary sign which will be a directional arrow indicating the right hand turn. This should serve as a further reminder on the course to riders that they are approaching the right hand turn.

Ultimately, it is the riders responsibility to read all aspects of the Start Sheet, in order to appreciate and understand specific instructions that are provided for the safety of all competitors. The District, therefore, reminds riders that a zero tolerance approach will continue to be applied to evidence of non-compliance. Evidence is not only in the form of any photo or video evidence but in the observations of Event Marshals or Event Observers. Please ride safely.

5. District Successes and Results in 2023 National Competitions:-

a. National Youth Championship

Freya Johnson (Gosforth RC) was 5th female (3rd W15), Harris Hall (Velo Culture) was 10th male (6th M16), Aiden Raftery (North Shields Poly) was 41st male (12th M14)

b. 10m

The events were very well represented by North East Riders and it was great to see such support. Given the high number of NE entrants, I have only included rider placings up to 50th place.

Men – Euan Adam (Durham City Velo) was 24th, Phil Kennell (GS Metro) was 27th and Age Award Winner, Adam Smith (Team Kirkley) was 32nd, Phil Hall (Velo Culture) was 39th, Jay Pitt (Velo Culture) was 42nd, Zach Haigh (Team Kirkley) was 43rd, Michael Sloanes (Velo Culture) was 47th, Hugh Storey (Muckle CC) was 49th

Women – Anna Weaver (Team Kirkley) was 8th, Alex Noonan (Velo Culture) was 18th, Natalie Lye (Muckle CC) was 20th, Lois Jarvis (Muckle CC) was 22nd, Adele McAleer (Velo Culture) was 25th, Elizabeth Earle (Allen Valley Velo) was 30th, Sarah Wann (EMC Cycling) was 35th, Teri Bayless (Reifen Racing) was 36th, Tania Conway (Alnwick & District Tri) was 42nd, Vicky Cuthbertson (Sun City Tri) was 44th, Carol Stutchbury (Sun City Tri) was 45th, Heather Gould (North Shields Poly) was 47th.

Junior – Freya Johnson (Gosforth RC) was 2nd Female Junior and Age Award Winner, Harris Hall (Velo Culture) was 7th Male Junior

c. 25m

Men – Phil Kennell (GS Metro) was 18th

Women – Anna Weaver (Team Kirkley) was 8th

d. National Hill Climb Championships 2022 (the 2023 Event has not yet been held)

The event was very well represented by North East Riders so I have included rider placings up to 100th place.

Men – Lee Ager (Muckle CC) was 47th, Lee Cuthbertson (Muckle CC) was 57th, Colin Atkinson (Muckle CC) was 65th.

Women – Sarah Wilkinson (Blaydon CC) was 24th and Age Award Winner, Lois Jarvis (Muckle CC) was 50th, Angela McGurk (Blaydon CC) was 56th,

Junior – Charlie Thew (Racing Metro 15) was 22nd, Owen Haggerty (NTR) was 40th,

At the time of report publication, the 2023 National Hill Climb Championships has yet to be held.

6. Timekeepers

During 2023 there have been no new accredited timekeepers. With the return to a full season of events, all events have been admirably supported by Sharon Dyson, Peter Schultz, Frances Schultz and Ray Lockett. Ewa Johnson continues to be an accredited timekeeper and supports as required. In addition, the District called upon the services of Andy Cosgrove to support timekeeping at the National 10 Championships. Thanks are recorded here from the District Committee and on behalf of all of the clubs for their support as without the timekeepers, there would simply be NO events.

However, the situation with accredited timekeepers in NE District continues to be critical and will be worse for 2024 now that Ray Lockett has retired. In spite of reaching out for volunteers during 2023, there was no new take-up for Timekeeping volunteers which has been disappointing. This is a situation that cannot continue for much longer – riders and

clubs should be aware that the current pool of Timekeepers are doing so 2-3 evenings per week between May and August for club events and pretty much every weekend from April through to October which is not sustainable.

Our current pool of timekeepers perform an amazing service for our NE clubs in Open and Club Events, however there is a need for our overall pool of timekeepers to be increased and the clubs within the District must look inwards for volunteers to seek to address this situation.

As a District we think that an additional 3-4 timekeepers would be a good number to source in order that we can expand the existing pool, reduce the reliance on such a small number of timekeepers and to really spread the workload of timekeeping across our District events.

It is not an acceptable situation for affiliated clubs to simply sit back and let others do the work – it is great that we have new Course Measurers and a new Risk Assessment Co-ordinator volunteer but we do need to source new Timekeeper volunteers, particularly now that Ray is stepping down.

Our thanks as a NE District Committee go out to all of the clubs and event organisers who take the time and effort to host events across the District – and Nationally when we are invited to host a National event, as is the case in 2023 when we successful hosted the National 10 Championship.

The contribution and commitment of these clubs is massively appreciated, not only by the District Committee but by our riders, so please look at how your club can actively support the events calendar and if that's not by hosting an event yourselves but by getting involved and supporting other clubs who are doing so – marshal support, Event HQ support and timekeepers is always appreciated and necessary to maintain the safe and successful running of events.

Acknowledgement is made here in the District Report of the contribution of Ali Maclean and Cliff Jessett who have provided a lot of support to clubs and events across the district with marshal duties, supporting the timekeepers and by getting involved.

7. Traffic Counts

Traffic Counts are taken periodically to ensure that the volume of traffic on roads that we use for our courses meets CTT requirements. Ahead of the National 10 Championship, we undertook new traffic counts on the M101 course.

8. Road Conditions

Generally, in the District the road conditions are not always at their best and, therefore, the importance of the On The Day Risk Assessment cannot be emphasised enough to update with regard to road and weather conditions. It is imperative that an On The Day Risk Assessment is completed on the day of the event (or as close to the event as possible) and any findings from that RA are highlighted to the riders at the Sign-On.

The On The Day Risk Assessment must be completed and retained by the event organiser – this becomes even more of an imperative in the event of any accidents.

9. Items for Review by NE District Clubs and/or Committee at 2023 AGM

There are no items for review but an item for attention.

Ray Lockett has advised that he currently has 2 x stopwatches which are accredited watches and can be used by timekeepers so for anyone wanting to take up timekeeping duties, there are accredited watches available and spare to be used.

10. Items for National Council 2023

There is one item for consideration as a proposal from the NE District for potential submission to National Council. This has been prepared by the District Committee and is attached separately to this report. It will be considered later as part of the NE AGM Agenda.

11. National Championships

NE District hosted the prestigious 2023 National 10 Championship over the weekend of 2/3 September 2023. The event was hosted by the N&DCA and the NE District Committee with Sharon Dyson as Lead Organiser. Sharon has undertaken a massive activity here and has led a very successful championship event. The total field size of 232 riders is the highest National 10 Championship field since 2020 and is a credit to the ongoing publicity and promotion that was undertaken prior to the closing date of the event.

Massive thanks to Sharon and the District Committee and the significant army of volunteers that supported the success of this event, coming from 18 clubs across the District. It was a real credit to the North East in terms of how to successfully run a championship event. Well done to everyone involved – the District received only positive feedback which is fantastic.

In 2024, we will be hosting the National Hill Climb which is always the main season close event, is very well attended by both riders and spectators and is always a spectacle. The event is being hosted by Muckle CC with Greg Charlton as Lead Organiser. Again the District Committee will be providing support to Muckle CC and I am sure the clubs in the NE will also get behind the event and add their support not only in entries but in volunteers and I've no doubt in a wide array of spectators.

Thank you as ever to the NE District Committee for continuing to step forward and run the CTT business locally – all volunteers who balance their contribution with other jobs and activities.

SPECIAL NOTICE:-

It is noted within the 2023 report that Ray Lockett is finally stepping down from the CTT NE District Committee. Significant thanks to Ray for his massive contribution in serving the North East during the 30 years – he has been an asset to us, fulfilling a wide variety of roles – Committee Member, Secretary, Chair, Timekeeper, Course Measurer, supporting Risk Assessments, he has organised many events including the National Team Time Trial and he has undertaken very many years of marshal duties. Ray was awarded a CTT Gold Badge of Honour in 2013 which is the highest accolade for volunteers within CTT and I know is justifiably proud of this award. Ray will be very much missed for his contribution to the Committee and to NE time trialling but I am sure you will still see him around at your events, being kept in check and on his toes by his grand-daughter. Ray presented the medals at the National 10 Championship which was a lovely opportunity for him to say his farewells to the wider CTT time trialling community.

Recognition and sincere thanks to Ray are made here within the 2023 Annual Report and I know that you will join the CTT NE District in thanking Ray for his years of service and wishing him well in the future. Thank You – Ray Lockett.

Dawn Sherrin
District Secretary
25 September 2023