

Welcome to the new season



Last Sunday saw the 2024 road season start with the Harold Nelson Memorial Day of Racing at Darley Moor, brilliantly organised by Stephen Baillie and team at Manchester Bicycle Club. Those who made it there experienced a BMCR epic; great racing in conditions best described as “challenging”. Congratulations not just to the winners, but to all who took part.

This is just the start of a great programme of events which includes the Stallard series, the Tour of the Abberleys and BMCR championships for Road, Circuit, Track, Cyclo-

cross, MTB and Time trial. We are hugely indebted to the organisers and volunteers who make our programme so good and keep us racing.

For the first time we have some gravel events in the calendar with our “Griterium” series (three events already on RiderHQ). We have also changed the format of our TT championship this year which will be road-bike only. This will hopefully make it more accessible to those who do not have specialist TT equipment.



Women's Membership

Promoting women's racing is a key objective for BMCR. We have some outstanding female athletes racing with us and the numbers have been building over the years. The more riders we have, the better the racing will be, and we will be able to offer more events when women can race against each other rather than being included with men. So, to encourage more women to our main events, we have decided to reduce the women's annual membership fee to **£10** for the **2024 season**. This is an experiment which we will review at the end of the season.

Awarding BMCR Championship Jerseys



We have a long-standing rule when it comes to awarding Championship jerseys which requires at least three people to be entered into a category before a jersey is awarded; the rule being designed to maintain the value of the jersey. The NEC consulted on this rule, and in particular its impact on women's, and older men's, categories.

The conclusion is that the rule should be maintained on the basis that the long-standing "jersey value" principle is a sound one.

However event organisers will be encouraged to use the flexibility, already allowed for in our rules, to combine adjacent age groups where the threshold of three entries has not been met. Thus allowing as many people as possible to compete for championship jerseys.

For some years championship jerseys have not been awarded for track events as the sheer number of events resulted in an impractical number of jerseys being awarded. The NEC has decided that for 2024, a single jersey will be awarded for the best all-round performance at the track championships for each age category. Again, as above, the three-entrant rule will apply and age categories will be merged where appropriate.

BMCR Regional Organisation

We reviewed our regional structure for the first time in many years. This was prompted by the fact that many regions have been struggling to fill their quota of "regional roles" and, over the years, some have effectively closed or merged.

We concluded that, whilst the administration of membership is now done centrally (through RiderHQ), our regional network remains vitally important. It provides a local and personal structure through which we can encourage and support race organisers; this is not something that is best done from a centralised function. It is also a structure which can support a broader representation (at least from a geographical perspective) in BMCR decision making.

We are reducing the number of regions from ten to seven, and intending that all seven regions should be represented on the NEC. This will mean combining regions 1 & 2, 3 & 4, and splitting region 8 between regions 6 and 10. With many people used to the old numbering system, we will maintain seven numbered regions as follows, and simply not use 1, 4 and 8.

The two key roles in each region will be regional race co-ordinator and regional representative on the NEC.

Regions will no longer be expected to maintain the other roles (registrar, secretary, treasurer etc) which used to be required for administering membership, although some may continue if there is a need. A huge thanks is due to all those who filled these valuable roles for many years; before RiderHQ they were the backbone of BMCR.

BMCR Regions

- Region 1
- Region 3
- Region 5
- Region 6
- Region 7
- Region 9
- Region 10



Volunteers Needed

If some of the old roles are no longer required, there is still a huge need for people to help. BMCR is an entirely volunteer organisation, and it has many unsung people who give their time and energy to make it the organisation that it is. **We currently need help in the following areas.**

Race support

Event organisation is paramount, and we are lucky to have a good team of organisers to keep us going. But our organisers need help on the day, especially with things like marshalling, sign-on, driving, car parking etc. If you can step-up and help, please do so. If you don't know how best to volunteer, or what is most needed, just drop an e-mail to info@bmcr.org.uk and we can pass your details on.

Regional Race Co-ordinators / NEC Representatives

We have vacancies for a Region 3 NEC representative (see above) and also event co-ordinators for Regions 3 and 5. The work isn't too time consuming, but it is vital to make sure that the organisation continues to work. If you are that person, or can think of somebody who might be, please let us know. Again through "[contact us](#)" on the website or just e-mail info@bmcr.org.uk

Website / Technology expertise

We are keen to find a volunteer to help with our technology, of which our website is an important element. If you might have the necessary skills, and would like to help and put something back into BMCR, then please speak to anybody on the NEC. The details are under "[contact us](#)" on the website or by e-mail to info@bmcr.org.uk

All of us on the NEC wish you a safe, successful and enjoyable season of racing during 2024.

Best wishes,

James

James Stewart

Chair, BMCR NEC



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