



Cycling Ireland BMX Commission

Annual Report 2016



Overview

BMX Ireland, formed by former BMX racers, has been organising and promoting BMX Racing since 2011. In March 2014, BMX Ireland became the Cycling Ireland BMX Commission, a sub-committee of the Board of Cycling Ireland.

The BMX Commission continues to proactively engage in all operational, developmental, technical, promotional and governance of BMX Racing in Ireland. It operates under the auspices of the National Federation, Cycling Ireland, and is governed by its Procedures, Rules, Ethics and Codes of Conduct.

The 8 members of the Commission are drawn from the four provinces Leinster, Connacht, Munster and Ulster. The Commission continues to have co-opted members who provide invaluable services such as web and social media, graphic design & publications production, race reports, financial management, coaching and race day operations support. The Commission now also has a National BMX Development Coach.

Provincial Commission Members & Their Roles

- Kevin McShane - Chairperson & Ulster Provincial Member.
- Alison Murphy - Secretary & Leinster Provincial Member.
- Steven Bell - Development Support & Ulster Provincial Member.
- Barry O'Keefe - Munster Provincial Member.
- Eamonn Wyer - National Track Development & Leinster Provincial Member.
- Derek Jolly - Munster Provincial Member.

Co-opted Commission Members & Their Roles

- Lar Massey - Web & Social Media Design & Control. Development Squad Support.
- Simon Murphy - Treasurer and Development Squad Manager.
- Chad Gilmer - Commission Website & Email hosting and maintenance.
- Nathalie Lawlor - National Race Director.
- Tom Campbell - Commission & Coaching Support.
- Eugene Jackson - Commission & Coaching Support.

National BMX Development Coach

Jeremy Hayes

Activities and Achievements for 2016

The 2016 Irish National BMX Race Series.

- Round 1: 3rd April 2016 – Lucan BMX, St. Catherine's Park, Co. Dublin
- Round 2: 1st May 2016 – Lisburn BMX, Co. Antrim
- Round 3: 22nd May 2016 – Riverchapel BMX, Wexford
- Round 4: 16th July 2016 – Cork BMX, Co. Cork
- Round 5: 20th August 2016 – Lucan BMX, St. Catherine's Park, Co. Dublin
- Round 6: 21st August 2016 – Lucan BMX, St. Catherine's Park, Co. Dublin
- Round 7: 17th September 2016 – Ratoath BMX, Co. Meath
- Round 8: 18th September 2016 – Ratoath BMX, Co. Meath

The 2016 Irish National BMX Race Series was an 8 Round series run from April to September. The National Race Series began with Round One at Lucan BMX Club. The awesome new Lisburn BMX Track held Round 2, built by the Legend Steve Bell of BMX Ireland along with George Gordon, Brian Mallon, Gordon McGuffin & Mark Kennedy. Round 3 went to another brand new BMX Ireland designed track at Riverchapel in Wexford. Cork BMX Club hosted Round 4, built to the highest international standards, with both a 3m and 5m start hill, the Cork National was another huge success this year. Rounds 5 & 6 saw the National Series back in Lucan for a double header, with some US Pro Coaches attending. The Series finished with another double header, Rounds 7 & 8 in Ratoath, Co. Meath. The National Series had a total of 215 riders racing in 2016 up 30% on last year. As new tracks have come online in 2016, the Commission fully expects rider participation to continue to grow.

The 2016 All-Ireland National Championships

The 2016 All Ireland BMX National Championships took place in July on in River Chapel, Wexford in line with our policy of moving the National Championships around the provinces and run on our best tracks.

The All Ireland Championships is the single biggest one day race in Irish BMX and the National Champion Title is the next most coveted title after the No.1 Plate of the National Series.

The racing was fast and furious, as always, with a record number of both male and female categories racing for the glory of All Ireland Champion. The main event of the day was the Junior Men, Ireland's fastest crop of riders. The race was tight with Aaron Edwards leading the charge to the 3rd straight where he took a tumble and was overtaken by Sam Murphy who went on to win the coveted title and jersey for 2016.

The Cycling Ireland BMX Commission would like to thank the fantastic volunteers of Riverchapel for their tireless work to organise and host such a top class event. A fantastic day was had by all who attended.



2016 Highlights

In 2016, the sport grew year-on-year by 30% with 130+ riders competing at National events. The BMX Commission also works closely with clubs to encourage local participation, coaching, and race days. BMX clubs are now established as far apart as Cork and Larne in Co Antrim. Track development is on-going, a national BMX race team and development squad has been established with high performance goals, and Irish riders now compete regularly at international events.

Without a doubt the highlights of the year were the two National Rounds held at our state of the art brand new Lisburn BMX Track and River Chapel BMX Tracks. New clubs and committees have been put in place with dedicated volunteers tirelessly giving up their time to maintain the tracks and host training and club events. Well done Lisburn and River Chapel!

We had an Elite program for 2016 where Kelvin Batey competed at several UCI events in preparation for the World Championships in Medellin, Colombia, where he strived for Olympic qualification. Although very disappointed with narrowly missing out on a qualification spot, we never the less gained invaluable experience of competing at the highest levels of world BMX.

Planned Activities and Goals for 2017

Going forward into the 2017 season and beyond, the BMX Commission is committed to further promoting and developing BMX racing at club and national level, track building, encouraging local participation, and managing our national BMX squad to attain success at international level.

In 2017, it will be the first time ever the All Ireland BMX Championship will be held in Ulster. This event will be hosted by Lisburn BMX and is sure to be the event of the year. Ulster BMX is growing strongly with ever growing rider numbers from Lisburn BMX Club, East Coast Raiders, Larne, Lagan Village BMX and Belfast City BMX having a very strong presences at the National Series this year and gaining some fantastic results. We look forward to seeing the growth of BMX in Ulster continue to go from strength to strength.

There will be a significant number of talented riders representing Ireland at the European Championships in Bordeaux and the World Championships in Rockhill, North Carolina in 2017.

Track Development

There has been a progressive and sustained track building programme in place. The Commissions' National Track Development officer, Eamonn Wyer, has a busy schedule of track development and proposals across all Provinces. In 2016 he has helped finalise and get the Riverchapel track operational for competition, while Steve Bell & The Lisburn Club took care of the Lisburn track and club start up. A huge achievement in getting these projects over the line, and a great footing to progress with track development in 2017 and beyond.

National Squad and Rider Development

The New National BMX Squad is up and running being managed by Simon Murphy and coached by Jeremy Hayes. The Squad consists of 17 and 18 year olds: Sam Murphy, Matthew Malone, Aaron Edwards and Adam Fynes with the Development Squad consisting of Katie O'Neill, David Dorney, Jake Lynch and 16 year old Matthew Campbell. These are coveted spots the up and coming younger riders have their eye on for the future. This BMX Ireland Rider Development Programme is being run parallel to the National Race Programme and Track Development Programme.

Cycling Ireland BMX Members 2016/7

TBC at the BMX AGM on December 6th 2016.

Conclusion

BMX Racing in Ireland has now successfully completed its fifth full season with a 30% growth in riders competing at the National Series year-on-year. The BMX Commission continues to make steady progress in the development of BMX racing in Ireland. We are continually working to increase our 'promotional activity' for the 2017 National Race Series, which will be formulated over the winter. In the shorter term the Commission will work hard at canvassing for more top quality tracks to be built in the right places across the nation, more volunteers, more coaches to grow the sport at grass roots level.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge the invaluable support from our colleagues in Cycling Ireland. May we also offer our sincere thanks to all the volunteers who give up their spare time to assist at National Race events, Club events, Coaching, and BMX activities throughout the year.