



# **Cycling Ireland BMX Commission**

## **Annual Report 2017**



## **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.

## **2017 Provincial Commission Members & Their Roles**

- Tom Campbell – Chairperson
- Nathalie Lawlor – Treasurer & National Race Director.
- Eugene Jackson – Child Safety Officer
- Kevin McShane - 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.
- Bill Mackness - Ulster Provincial Member
- Richie Fields – Commission Member.
- Amanda Stynes – Commission Member.

## **Co-opted Commission Members & Their Roles**

- Lar Massey - Media Design & Branding.
- Simon Murphy - Development Squad Manager.
- Chad Gilmer - Commission Website & Email hosting and maintenance.
- Shay McNally – Race registrar and Website Admin.

## **National BMX Development Coach**

Jeremy Hayes

## Activities and Achievements for 2017

*The 2017 Irish National BMX Race Series.*

- Round 1: April Lucan BMX, Co. Dublin
- Round 2: May – Ratoath BMX, Meath
- Round 3: May – Lisburn BMX
- Round 4: July – Cork BMX, Co. Cork
- Round 5: August – Lucan BMX, Co. Dublin
- Round 6: August – Lucan BMX, Co. Dublin
- Round 8: September – Ratoath BMX, Meath
- Round 9: September – Ratoath BMX, Meath

Event 2017	Total Entries	Boys	Girls
Round1 Luc	165	138	27
Round2 Rat	180	149	31
Round3 Lis	146	117	29
Round4 Cork	135	113	22
Round5 Wex	144	115	29
Round6 Luc	142	111	31
Round7 Luc	143	112	31
Round8 Rat	130	107	23
Round9 Rat	133	110	23
Total Unique Riders 2017		227	

The 2017 Irish National BMX Race Series was a 9 Round series run from April to September. The National Race Series began with a bang with Round One at the country's premier track at Lucan BMX Club. The Ratoath BMX Track held Round 2 in fantastic weather conditions and achieved the largest entry of the series. Round 3 moved north to Lisburn BMX club with some exciting racing in damp conditions. Cork BMX Club hosted Round 4, the Cork National was another huge success this year in sunny warm conditions. Round 5 went to the newly established Courtown BMX club at Riverchapel in Wexford. Rounds 6 & 7 saw the National Series back in Lucan for a double header, The Series finished with another double header, Rounds 8 & 9 in



Ratoath, Co. Meath. The National Series had a total of 227 riders racing in 2017 up 6% on last year. The Commission fully expects rider participation to continue to grow.

### **The 2017 All-Ireland National Championships**

The 2017 All Ireland BMX National Championships took place in July in Lisburn NI. This was the first time in the history of the sport of BMX Racing in Ireland that this prestigious event travelled north of the border. This is 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 Matthew Malone leading the charge all day to win the coveted title and jersey for 2017.

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

## 2017 Highlights

In 2017, BMX licence holders grew year-on-year by 40% with 130+ riders competing at National events. The BMX Commission also works closely with clubs to encourage local participation, coaching, Commissar training 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 Senior team and Junior development squad has been established, With high performance goals, and Irish riders now compete regularly at international events.

**BMX Club membership 2016(end Sept 2016)**

Belfast City BMX Club	34
Cork BMX Club	61
Riverchapel BMX Club	60
DC BMX	17
East Coast Raiders BMX Club	11
Lagan Village BMX Club	18
Lisburn BMX Club	63
Lucan BMX Club	92
Newry & Mourne BMX Club	6
Ratoath BMX Club	43
St. Annes BMX Co-op	6
<b>Total BMX Licence holders</b>	<b>411</b>

**BMX Club membership 2017(end sept 2017)**

Belfast City BMX Club	57
Cork BMX Club	111
Courtown BMX Club	163
DC BMX	15
East Coast Raiders BMX Club	9
Lagan Village BMX Club	8
Lisburn BMX Club	67
Lucan BMX Club	80
Newry & Mourne BMX Club	6
Ratoath BMX Club	55
St. Annes BMX Co-op	8
<b>Total BMX License holders</b>	<b>579</b>

**BMX license holders Increased by 40% in 2017**

Without a doubt the international highlights of the year were the BMX European championships in Bordeaux France and the BMX World Championships in Rockhill SC USA.

37 riders competed in Bordeaux in July over 3 days of racing. Conditions were a big test for riders due to the 30+ deg heat with all riders taking it in their stride. Highlights of the weekend was Carly Hayes securing the E6 plate in the 8 year old Girls category and Sam Murphy and Matthew Malone racing at championship level in Junior Men category for the first time in our history and progressing through their heats into the 1/8 finals.



5 riders competed in Rockhill in July in even more testing weather conditions that included 35 deg of heat and 80% humidity and plenty of thunderstorms thrown in to make things interesting. All riders progressed out of their 3 qualifying heats with our USA based Derin Mertin making it to quarter finals in the 9 yearold Girls category. Derin was unlucky out of the gate and got tangled with another rider and crashed. Our international riders are improving year on year at this international level.

### **Planned Activities and Goals for 2018**

Going forward into the 2018 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.

Coaching is the key word for 2018. With Level one coaching courses to be delivered by national coach Jeremy Hayes to all club coaches. Coaching programs to be rolled out at club level by club coaches.

There will be a significant number of talented riders representing Ireland at the British National series, European Championships in Sarrians France and the World Championships in Baku Azerbaijan, in 2018.

### **Track Development**

There has been a progressive and sustained race track and pumptrack building programme in place. The Commissions' National Track Development officer, Eamonn Wyer, has a busy schedule of track development and proposals across all Provinces for 2018. In 2018 we envisage 2-3 more tracks countrywide. It's a huge achievement to get these projects over the line, and to progress track development in 2018 and beyond. Big challenge for us is to assist in the development of clubs to manage these tracks.



### **National Squad and Rider Development**

The National BMX Squad is heading into its 3<sup>rd</sup> season being managed by Simon Murphy and coached by Jeremy Hayes. The Squad consists of 16 to 18 year olds: Sam Murphy, Matthew Malone, Aaron Edwards and with the Development Squad consisting of David Dorney, Matthew Campbell and freshly inducted for 2018, Marcus Bell from Lisburn BMX.

We want to wish our new Junior development squad of 13-15 year old riders Ciara O’Gorman, Ryan Quinn, Calvin Dunne and Niall Davis, the best of luck in their new roles within the development programme.

This BMX Ireland Rider Development Programme is being run parallel to the National Race Programme and Track Development Programme.

### **Cycling Ireland BMX Members 2017/18**

TBC at the BMX AGM on December 7th 2017.

### **Conclusion**

BMX Racing in Ireland has now successfully completed its sixth full season with a 6% growth in riders competing at the National Series year-on-year, and a 40% increase in BMX license holders. 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 2018 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.

Tom Campbell  
Chairperson  
BMX Ireland.