

Cycling Ireland BMX Commission

Annual Report 2018





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.

2018 Provincial Commission Members & Their Roles

- Tom Campbell – Chairperson
- Nathalie Lawlor – Treasurer & National Race Director.
- Eugene Jackson – Child Safety Officer
- Kevin McShane - Ulster Provincial Member.
- Bill Mackness - Secretary & Ulster Provincial Member.
- Eamonn Wyer - National Track Development & Leinster Provincial Member.
- Shay McNally – Race registrar and Website Admin.
- Jonathon Reid - Ulster Provincial 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.

National BMX Development Coach

Jeremy Hayes

Activities and Achievements for 2018

The 2018 Irish National BMX Race Series.

- Round 1: April Lucan BMX
- Round 2: May – Lisburn BMX
- Round 3: May – Lisburn BMX
- Round 4: July – Courtown BMX
- Round 5: August – Cork BMX
- Round 6: August – Cork BMX
- Round 7: September – Ratoath BMX
- Round 8: September – Ratoath BMX
- Round 9: September – Lucan BMX
- Round 10: September – Lucan BMX

Event 2018	Total Entries	Boys	Girls
Round1	165	138	27
Round2	150	149	31
Round3	146	117	29
Round4	135	113	22
Round5	144	115	29
Round6	142	111	31
Round7	143	112	31
Round8	141	107	23
Round9	140	110	23
Round 10			
Total Unique Riders 2018		216	

The 2018 Irish National BMX Race Series was a 10 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 Lisburn BMX Track held Round 2 & 3 in fantastic weather conditions. Round 4 moved to Courtown BMX club with some exciting racing in extremely hot conditions. Cork BMX Club hosted Round 5 & 6, the



Cork National was another huge success this year in sunny warm conditions. Round 7 & 8 went to the home of Irish BMX club at Ratoath BMX. Rounds 9 & 10 saw the National Series back in Lucan for a double header, The National Series had a total of 216 riders racing in 2018 similar to last year. The Commission fully expects rider participation to continue to grow.

The 2018 All-Ireland National Championships

The 2018 All Ireland BMX National Championships returned in July to Ratoath BMX Club facility in Co. Meath.

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 Campbell leading the charge all day to win the coveted title and jersey for 2018. Frank Keenan presented all riders with their trophy's and Jerseys.

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



2018 Highlights

In 2018, 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 ongoing, 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.

The international highlights of the year were the BMX European championships in Sarrians France and the BMX World Championships in Baku Azerbaijan.

8 riders competed in Sarrians France 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 and Evan Bartley securing the E6 plates in their categorie and Matthew Campbell racing at championship level in Junior Men category for the first time.

3 riders competed in Baku in May. All riders progressed out of their 3 qualifying heats. Our international riders are improving year on year at this international level. The world championships return to Zolder Belgium in 2019.

Planned Activities and Goals for 2019

Going forward into the 2019 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 2019. With Level one coaching courses completed in Oct with the UCI WCC by Matthew Campbell and Eugene Jackson. Coaching programs and coach the coach programs to be rolled out at club level by newly qualified coaches.



There will be a significant number of talented riders representing Ireland at the British National series, European Championships in Latvia and the World Championships in Zolder Belgium, in 2019.

Track Development

There has been a progressive and sustained race track and pump 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 for 2019. In 2019 we envisage 1-2 more tracks countrywide. It's a huge achievement to get these projects over the line, and to progress track development in 2019 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 4th season being managed by Simon Murphy and coached by Jeremy Hayes. The Squad consists of 16 to 18 year olds: Sam Murphy, Matthew Malone, and with the Development Squad consisting of Matthew Campbell.

We want to wish our new Junior development squad of 13-15 year old riders 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 6th 2018.

Conclusion

BMX Racing in Ireland has now successfully completed its 7th full season with a 5% growth in riders competing at the National Series year-on-year, and a 30% 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 2019 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.