

# Cycling Ireland BMX Commission Annual Report 2019





## **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 11 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
- Sorcha McConnell – Commission Member.
- Derek Jolly – Munster Provincial member
- Jane Dunne – 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 2019

*The 2019 Irish National BMX Race Series.*

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

<b>2019</b>	<b>Total Entries</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>
<b>Round1 Lisburn</b>	127	99	28
<b>Round2 Lisburn</b>	125	100	25
<b>Round3 Courtown</b>	121	96	25
<b>Round4 Cork</b>	94	76	18
<b>Round5 Ratoath</b>	114	94	20
<b>Round6 Ratoath</b>	113	95	18
<b>Round7 Lucan</b>	115	91	24
<b>Round8 Lucan</b>	114	91	23
<b>All Irelands Cork</b>	89	71	18
<b>Total Unique Riders 2019</b>	<b>179</b>		

The 2019 Irish National BMX Race Series was an 8 Round series run from April to September. The National Race Series began with a bang with Round 1&2 at Ulsters premier track at Lisburn BMX Club. The Courtown BMX Track held Round 3 in fantastic weather conditions. Round 4 moved to Cork BMX club with some exciting racing in dry conditions. Ratoath BMX Club hosted Round 5 & 6. Round 7 & 8 went to the premier track of the Irish BMX scene at Lucan BMX, The National Series had a total of 179 riders racing in 2018 similar to last year. The Commission fully expects rider participation to continue to grow.



## **The 2019 All-Ireland National Championships**

The 2019 All Ireland BMX National Championships returned in June to Cork BMX Club facility in Tramore Valley Park outside Cork City.

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 Calvin Dunne leading the charge all day to win the coveted title and jersey for 2019. Jerseys were also awarded to the younger age categories for the first time following changes to the BMX championships at the 2018 CI AGM.

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



## **2019 Highlights**

In 2019, BMX licence holders grew by 5% 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.

The international highlights of the year were the BMX European championships in Valmeria Latvia and the BMX World Championships in Zolder Belgium.

8 riders competed in Latvia in July over 3 days of racing. Highlights of the weekend was Carly Hayes and Reuben Byrne securing the E2 and E3 plates in their categories.

34 riders competed in Zolder in July. Main highlight was Evan Bartley from Lucan BMX Making the final and battling hard for the World No 4 plate. Our international riders are improving year on year at this international level. The world championships move to Texas USA in 2020 with the European Championships in Dessel Belgium.

## **Planned Activities and Goals for 2020**

Going forward into the 2020 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 2020. 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 number of talented riders representing Ireland at the British National series, European Championships in Belgium and the World Championships in Texas USA, in 2020.

## **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 2020. In 2020 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 2020 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 5th season being managed by Simon Murphy and coached by Jeremy Hayes. The HP Squad consists of Matthew Malone, Calvin Dunne and Matthew Campbell.

The Junior Development squad has been phased out for 2020.

### **Cycling Ireland BMX Members 2018/19**

	Club name	Province	Members 2018	Members 2019	Diff
2	Belfast City BMX Club	Antrim	47	36	-11
3	Cork BMX Club	Cork	76	64	-12
4	Courtown BMX Club	Wexford	38	27	-11
6	East Coast Raiders BMX Club	Antrim	7	7	0
7	Lisburn BMX Club	Antrim	89	118	29
8	Lucan BMX Club	Dublin	77	82	5
10	Newry & Mourne BMX Club	Ulster	1	1	0
11	Ratoath BMX Club	Meath	53	65	12
12	St. Annes BMX Co-op	Dublin	4	8	4
			392	408	16

### **Conclusion**

BMX Racing in Ireland has now successfully completed its 8th full season with a 0% growth in riders competing at the National Series, and a 5% 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 2020 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.