

2021 Leinster Report

The pandemic had its part to play in shaping the 2021 track season, however, unlike the previous year we had learned from our mistakes and didn't make any early decisions to cancel major events. This allowed for the season to kick off smoothly in May as sport began to recommence. Training at Sundrive took place on the usual Monday and Saturday slots, running under the government guidelines meaning reduced capacity in the earlier months of the season.

Racing took place on Wednesday nights with a mixture of league racing and omnium nights. The omnium nights have proven to be popular amongst the racers and has helped them to build towards National Championship level over the course of the summer.

2021 saw the return of the Duane Delaney, a favourite among all as the racing format allows racers of all abilities to compete for the top prize. Unfortunately one race not to return to the calendar was the Dublin International GP which was cancelled for the second year running. Hopes are for the event to return in 2022 with an easing of travel restrictions.

Sundrive hosted a full complement of Senior National Championships this year along with the Para-champs and the Master's Champs (both the 2020 and 2021 editions). The Senior National's weekend was once again live streamed by Cycling Ireland and it's hoped that this exposure brings more to the sport in the years to come.

Participation across all events has fallen in the last two years since the start of the pandemic. This is an issue for all disciplines within the cycling community in Ireland during these times. However, the performance levels have increased greatly across all categories making for exciting racing and tighter competitions, a merit to the coaching work and particularly to Hugh Byrne and John Coates who spend much of their time helping riders develop at Sundrive.

As the outgoing Leinster Representative I would like to thank the Commission for all they do to help develop the sport of cycling, not only in Leinster but across the whole of the island.