

2022 Overview

Whilst 2022 was a slightly more normal year in terms of less Co-Vid restrictions, it has been a difficult year to take the Commission in any direction as a result of the constant turmoil within Cycling Ireland.

Sundrive Track was able to run weekly leagues and a full program of National Championships. This has led to continued improvement in sprint abilities at Senior and Masters level. Whilst maintaining these levels, focus will now turn to raising abilities across other aspects of track cycling. On the 4th June, we also saw over 25 youth competitors gathered at Sundrive Velodrome for the inaugural Paddy Doran memorial Youth Omnium. Throughout the year, Sundrive have seen a downturn in numbers however, particularly in youth. Some of this can be attributed to competing with other events on at the same time, the likes of Mondelo and Corkagh, but also as members struggle with the cost of living etc.

Orangefield track enjoyed a reasonably full season although had to close for 3 weeks to get the back straight resurfaced, although this was worth it as the track is now significantly improved. They have had consistent number of youth riders with strong performances in the National Championships at both Youth and Junior, as well as fielding two strong teams for the UK School Games. This also introduced certain events that our youth do not normally ride, being Madison and Team Pursuit. Orangefield often struggle to get Senior riders and this is something that they are working on improving.

We continued to work with Kanturk Velodrome to achieve closer integration to the CI Track Commission National Facility Strategy which will secure the long-term approval for National Grade Competition at Kanturk, delivery of facilities to a national standard and ultimately open access for the Kanturk Facility to a growing support from the National Governing Body for Track Cycling in Ireland. This work is an ongoing project.

2023 Strategic Objectives

Unfortunately, numbers were down in some events and this resulted in a number of the National Championships being issued with a yellow card. We will be looking at this going forward to see how to improve numbers both taking part in training and competing in events.

The current chaos within Cycling Ireland means it is difficult to formulate any strategy going forward until Cycling Ireland provide a clear structure and remit for the National Commission to operate within.

Notwithstanding this, it is important to recognise that we have excellent coaches and willing volunteers, however these resources are stretched to their max. As we are keen to expand our program this means we are still struggling with the lack of volunteers of coaching/timing/running events and a serious lack of commissaires is also a concern. Properly trained Commissaires are essential if we are to run events in a fair and safe manner. Again, looking forward we will be looking to recruit and train more commissaires, timekeepers and volunteers to help with the load. This is essential if we are to expand our program and we will work with Cycling Ireland to get the appropriate courses set up for new recruits. We would also welcome Cycling Ireland running additional Coaching qualifications as these haven't been in place now for a number of years and this is something we need to work towards with the hope of an indoor velodrome.

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On behalf of the Commission, I would like to thank all the Volunteers/Coaches/Commissaires who turn up on a regular basis and give freely of their time even on the rainy days and all the riders/parents who support Track activities around the country. And I wish everyone good luck in 2023.

- Paul Dixon, Chairperson Track Commission of Cycling Ireland.