

Ulster Track Commission report 2022

2022 was another successful season for Ulster Track Cycling and Ulster riders.

Our small band of volunteers successfully promoted two weekly sessions from April to September – Mondays for up to and including Under 14s and Wednesdays for Under 16s and above, with well contested and competitive Leagues promoted across all categories.

Weather did not overly interrupt our programme this year, however we were forced to close the facility for a time in May while the Belfast City Council contractors carried out resurfacing works on the *back* straight, to compliment the similar works undertaken in the *home* straight last year.

These improvements are overdue and welcome, but do not detract from our efforts to eventually have the facility replaced at some time in the future.

Ulster promoted the National Junior Championships at Orangefield in May, which resulted in Ulster taking 7 out of the 8 titles available: with Erin Creighton dominating all 4 Junior Women`s events and Oisín Ferrity & Curtis Neill taking 3 out of the 4 Boys Gold medals.

Similarly in the Youth National Championships in Dublin Ulster riders collected a total of 9 titles & 25 medals, with Emer Heverin dominating all three Under 14 Girls events.

In the latter part of the season there was focus was on preparing riders for the School Games in Loughborough, where 4 boys & 4 girls represented Ulster in a range of events comprising Road & Track races.

This annual event is a highlight for Youth riders in these disciplines; however, we do suffer from the fact that our velodrome is outdoors, and our season is a short one, but nonetheless we managed to hold our own on the track and perform well in the Road events, with Seth Dunwoody taking the outright win in the Street Sprint & Road Race.

Both Ulster Track Leagues (Mondays & Wednesdays) were well supported, with the Monday Youth league culminating in a prize-giving BBQ evening in August.

Looking forward, there are plans to continue with the two Track sessions per week, and others by arrangement, and we look forward to resuming Ulster Track Championships along with Leagues and a potential Open Track meeting in 2023.

Anthony Mitchell

Secretary, Ulster Track Commission
September 2022.