

Chairman's Report 2017

It's probably fair to say that 2107 has once again seen cycling making the headlines, be it not always in glowing tribute. Much of that focus has been on issues that at face value seem disconnected from our work in the Regions but in reality, no one is immune to the fallout from reputational challenges on a National scale.

As with all sports, British Cycling has been coming to terms with the new Code for Sports Governance, which prescribes mandatory requirements for Governing Bodies in receipt of Sports Council funding. At the Federation's Extraordinary Meeting on the 22nd July, our National Council voted through the Board's proposals that enable us to now be compliant, supported in that process by the Yorkshire Region.

The proposals introduced a number of key changes to the structure of the Board and its relationship with a National Council, which will now be significantly reduced in size. A Term limit for the National Councillors appointed by regions is another development designed to encourage new blood to become involved at National level.

It's time to move on with our new structure, which at face value indicates the potential for a closer working relationship between the Board, the staff and the Regions. It now just needs all of these bodies to commit to working together to take British Cycling to new and higher levels.

Whilst much of the media attention has been on National matters, closer to home your Yorkshire Region has continued with yet another standout year.

Once again, we have a World Champion, this time in the form of the prodigious talent that is Tom Pidcock, the winner of the World Junior Cyclo-Cross Championship in January. He then transferred his considerable talent and skill to the road where he became the National Elite Circuit Race Champion, an extremely rare achievement for a 17-year-old.

The racing scene in Yorkshire continues to prosper on the back of our new facilities. Once a Region deprived of dedicated closed road circuits we have moved quickly in recent years to address that. In addition to the excellent facility in Wakefield, new road circuits have been opened this year in North Leeds and Hull. Added to these we have the soon to be opened Urban Bike Park in Middleton Park Leeds with its 6km of Mountain Bike Trails and BMX tracks.

These facilities provide excellent opportunities for each gender, age group and ability level, but facilities all need one vital component to be successful...you! We need you to use them, we need also to expand our volunteer network of organisers and commissaires without whom we will not be able to sustain growth in our events.

Since the Yorkshire Region of British Cycling entered life in 2000 it has grown in membership from eleven hundred or so to a figure now approaching eleven thousand. Yet throughout all of this there hasn't been the same level of growth in our volunteer numbers. With the prospect of a World Road Race Championship on Yorkshire roads in 2019 never has there been a greater incentive to step forward and become a volunteer.

This year's AGM offers an excellent opportunity to hear of the changes being made at National and Regional level, as well as to take your own steps in fulfilling your ambitions to be involved in the British Cycling success story; why not join us.

Bob Howden OBE FRSA

Chairman