

Chairman's annual report 2013

Officials:

Peter Derrick - Chairman
Paul Le Gros - Treasurer
Gemma Derrick - Secretary
Julie Le Rougetel - Communications

Committee Members:

Lynda Lutz - Membership
Adrian Milner - Website
John Pallot Brown - Loan bikes
Simon Stead - MTB
Erik Le Brun - MTB
Ryan O'Shea and Charlotte Turner - Children's Representative
Steve Lowthorpe

Introduction:

This is my final report as chairman as I will be standing down at the AGM in January. I have been heavily involved with the creation of the Youth Academy and its operation since the concept was first discussed in the autumn of 2008 and very proud of what we have achieved. A lot of people have put in a huge amount of time and effort to achieve this success and it would be wrong to focus on any specific individuals; you know who you are and I can only say a very sincere personal thank you for your support.

Any club can only succeed if people are willing to commit time and effort to make things happen. We are always looking for volunteers and if you have ideas please get involved. We can't guarantee every idea will be adopted but your involvement is essential whether it is sitting on a committee, helping on a Wednesday evening or cutting back gorse at Val de la Mare. Without people willing to do this there is no Academy.

Looking to the future cycling has never had a higher profile. The success of the YA is just one indicator of this and there is no reason why it shouldn't continue. Fundamental to our success is the acceptance by the Caesarean Cycling Club and Velo Sport Jersey that inter club rivalry and politics has no place within the Youth Academy. Inevitably a large proportion of those involved in the YA will have allegiance to one or the other club, but my parting message to all cyclists with an interest in the development of cycling on the island is to focus on what the YA is seeking to achieve; we are all part of the cycling community.

Governance:

The YA committee held twelve meetings in the year, minuted accordingly. The chairman attended and presented reports to the main JCA committee at each of their meetings held during the year. A number of additional meetings were held to consider revisions to the coaching plan going forward over the winter of 2013 and for 2014.

Membership:

Membership has continued to grow with 134 members now on the books, an increase of approx 10% over last year's figures.

Finance & Sponsorship:

A three year extension to the sponsorship agreement was signed early in 2013 putting the YA on a sound financial footing for the next three years. Further financial support has been provided by membership fees, donations from individuals and contributions from individuals/cycling clubs using the YA's van and minibus.

Extensive coverage of YA activity has been provided by the Jersey Evening Post with additional publicity generated by TV and radio coverage. The opinion of the YA is now regularly sought by the media in relation to any cycling issue. A big thank you to Julie Le Rougetel for the many articles she has submitted to the JEP covering YA events and to all those who have submitted articles raising the profile of cycling and the Academy/sponsor.

Events / activities:

A range of activities have been organised during the year as follows:

On island:

- Off road / MTB events
- Circuit and grass coaching/races on Wednesday evenings
- Wednesday evening training rides for older riders during June
- Club rides on a Saturday mornings (finished 30.9.13)
- Sunday morning training rides for the older riders from 1.10.13
- Wed evening roller/turbo sessions from 6.11.13
- Involvement with JCA and club events subject to age restrictions
- Town Criterium
- Participated in the Great Outdoor Show in May.
- 4th inter insular race at Le Quennevais with a team of 32 riders

Off island

- Participation in the British Schools Cycling Association (BSCA) national and regional Hill Climb, Circuit and Mountain Bike events
- Various BC events in the Southern Region
- Tour of the Mendips
- BC national Youth MTB series (Ollie Lowthorpe)
- Team competing in a French road race in Brittany

Achievements:

- Ryan O'Shea selected for the Jersey cycling team in the Island Games held in Bermuda during June
- Oliver Lowthorpe competed in the BC Youth national MTB series achieving number one slot for a number of months
- We have three current British Schools Cycling Association National champions as well as individual/school Circuit, MTB and Hill Climb champions in a variety of age grouping.
- Ryan O'Shea and Jack Rebours have competed successfully in Div 1 races this year with other YA members competing successfully in a variety of road, circuit and TT races
- Oliver Lowthorpe represented BC South at the regional MTB championships at the Olympic MTB course at Hadleigh Farm Essex.

- Oliver Turner won the Division 3 Thursday evening adult circuit series.
- Charlotte Turner was invited to ride for the Team GB team based in Sutton and competed in a number of UK ladies events
- Sabine Minchinton-Gilley, representing her French club has competed successfully in local and Departement events.
- Academy members have also competed successfully in events in France.
- Steve Lowthorpe represented the island as coach in the Southern BC team at the Youth Regional MTB championships and Peter Derrick represented the island as coach in the Southern BC team at the Youth Track championships held at the Chris Hoy centre in Glasgow.

New Developments:

- The minibus purchased last year has proved invaluable and has now been joined by a van, kindly donated by Jersey Gas which has been branded in YA colours giving further recognition to the Academy and our sponsor.
- We have continued to work with the CCC to allow our older members to compete in the senior MTB races and this has proved very successful with over 20 members now eligible to take part.

Coaching:

- The Wednesday evening coaching sessions run during the summer were well attended and enjoyed by the children
- A number of adults have indicated an interest in gaining coaching qualifications. If enough individuals come forward the YA will seek to arrange a further BC level one coaching course.
- A major review of the training/coaching activities provided by the YA is currently underway with working parties formed to plan and deliver activities to three groupings:
 - Year 8 upwards, road
 - Year 8 upwards, MTB
 - Years 1-7 all activities.

Looking forward

- The new coaching structure aims to deliver additional events across all the age groups, particularly the year 8 and above groups as well as reviewing/improving the Wednesday evening sessions.
- This year a substantial amount of time during the Wednesday evening sessions was focused on preparations for the interinsular with Guernsey. Feedback indicates this had a negative effect on the enjoyment of these sessions by some members and we will take this into account when planning our preparation for next year's event. One proposal, which is currently being considered, is to bring the date for the interinsular forward to April or May.
- We will continue with our programme of offshore events looking to take younger riders to the BSCA events and older riders to the BC events in the U.K. The majority if not all of these will be in the South of England to reduce cost.
- Following our first successful team outing to France we will look to build on this going forward taking teams to both MTB and road events
- We will continue to subsidise any member wishing to compete in off island events

- The mix of competition and coaching is constantly under review to ensure we are delivering the right combination
- The relationship with BC continues to develop and we are looking to run a local Regional School of Racing over the winter with the help of the Southern Region development officer, Ric Jamieson.
- We are continuing to seek opportunities to use both local and off island contacts to invite top riders/coaches to provide 'master class' coaching sessions to local coaches and children.
- We will continue to seek help from parents to assist in organizing events, act as marshalls, provide coaching support and generally help out.

Peter Derrick