

Womens' Commission Report

2020 Overview

As you will appreciate, 2020 proved to be a very different year than the Women's Commission had anticipated. The national restrictions meant we had to work with a shorter season than normal, and our budget was reduced accordingly. We started the year with a successful outing for an U16 and a Junior team at Round 3 of the HSBC National Trophy CX at Irvine in October. This was followed in January with a trip to Manchester Velodrome for an International Omnium. Seventeen riders, including Juniors, were selected for three days of training and racing. Our Women's Commission Bursary supported Youth Riders to Race in the Johnson Jets Track Event at Glasgow Velodrome on the 18th of January. In February, we held an Off-Road camp. By March, plans were well underway to enter Women's Commission Teams in the Lakeland 3 Day Stage Race and Rás na mBan. Race dates had also been secured for the Intermediate League and dates finalised for the Corkagh Park Race Series. As it turned out, we were very fortunate to run six dates in Corkagh Park, and a shortened Intermediate League which is due to finish on September 19th. In Corkagh Park, the average number of Seniors registered for each event was 30+, and Youths were also catered for in a separate race. In parallel with the physical events we have organised, a virtual Corkagh Park League was run over six weeks. We also compiled the National Rider Rankings and sponsored riders competing in international events through our Racing Bursary scheme. Internally, we adopted the new Cycling Ireland Sage 200 accounting system; moved to virtual Commission meetings which were well attended; and had much more direct engagement with Cycling Ireland via our liaison Margo Finnegan, whose team has been doing great work with the Women in Sport Programme. To finish, I would like to thank Margo and the outgoing Committee for all their support and work over the past year, and to wish the new Chairperson and Commission every success in the year ahead.

Strategic objectives for 2021

As per Cycling Ireland's Strategic Plan (2020-2024), our key objectives for 2021 fall under the pillar of Participation. We will continue to assist Cycling Ireland and the Women in Sport programme with their review of the current cycling environment for women of all ages and abilities. We will maintain our Beginner and Intermediate Leagues to help attract greater numbers of women into cycling. We will continue to promote our events and activities to increase the profile of women's participation in cycling. We will work with Cycling Ireland to integrate our public communications with theirs, so that relevant information is available to women from a central source. We will work with Cycling Ireland to ensure

appropriate female representation on the Board and on our Commissions. We will increase the number of active coaches in our Commission network.

Commission Members and Roles 2020

Chairperson: Róisín Kennedy

Secretary: Brendan Whelan

Treasurer: Colin Mac Hale

Bernie Commins – Off-Road

Brendan Whelan – Road and Track

John Hammond – Corkagh Park

Lorna Reilly – Corkagh Park

Liz Roche – Youth Commission

Shaun Mc Bride – Ulster

Theresa Finn – Munster