

Para Cycling Commission Report 2016

On behalf of the Commission and as the newly appointed chairman at our recent AGM I'm glad to be reporting a very successful 2016 and a bright future.

In 2016 saw a great growth in numbers across all categories, and 2017 looks a very promising year. Our Elites and Development all traveling far and wide to achieve their targets and bringing home a number of PB's and medals.

We had races in Abu Dhabi and France and then a training camp in Majorca in preparation for the world cups in South Africa, Belgium and Spain where we had several athletes fighting for a spot on the plane to Rio for the 2016 Paralympic games.

Our Invacare league also ran throughout the year where we saw huge numbers and some great support too. I would like to thank all the clubs along with Invacare Ireland who helped and volunteered as without them we could not grow this sport and we will look forward to seeing them all again in 2017.

The 2016 National Championship was ran in Kilcullen this year by Orwell Wheelers and we had a fantastic turn out by all the Paracycling team. The tandem race won by Katie-George Dunlevy and Fiona Guihen. The Handcycling race was won by Declan Slevin and the C1-C5 race was won by Colin Lynch. Well done to all.

With the main goal for 2016 being the Paralympics in Rio we had saw a great fighting spirit in all our athletes and in the end we had a super team on the plane. Representing your country on the biggest stage is where everyone wants to be. The team was made up of 5 men; Eoghan Clifford, Declan Slevin, Colin Lynch, Damien Vereker with Sean Hahessy and Peter Ryan with Marcin Mazgajski we also had 2 females; Ciara Staunton and Katie-George Dunlevy with Eve McCrystal. They were supported by Tommy McGowan (Team Manager) Neil Delahaye (Coach) Gerry Beggs & Eoin Murphy (Mechanics). In return we saw great achievements with the team returning with 5 medals.

A huge congratulation to all the riders well done.

With the year drawing to a close we are now already turning our attention to 2017 and with 3 world cups and the world championships in September it surely looks like another busy year for all the riders and I'm sure many of them aiming high again.

The Committee for 2016/2017;

Chairman – Phelim Lynch

Secretary – Declan Slevin

Treasurer – Denis Toomey

Performance Coach – Neil Delahaye

Development Coach – Cathal Miller

Team Mechanic – Gerry Beggs

Cyclist Rep – Seamus Wall

Commission Member – Martin Kirwan

2016 was indeed a great year and if the staff and riders put in the same level of commitment in the following years the we will defiantly have more success. We have more riders coming through and we are always looking for more so the competition within Ireland will get stronger. I am looking forward to seeing how these riders develop in 2017.

Lastly, I would like to thank Tommy McGowan for all his hard work as Team Manager in getting us and our equipment safely to and from Rio as well as organising the gear and training camps and more.

Also to Jerry Towey who has stepped down a from his role as chairman for the last 4 years. Jerry has worked hard to develop the academy and I open we can continue to grow it in his absence. I wish him all the best in the future and look forward to seeing him on the road in the not too distant future.

Your Sincerely

Phelim Lynch

Para-Cycling Commission Chariman