

# Cycling Ireland BMX Commission Annual Report 2021





## **Overview**

BMX Ireland, formed by former BMX racers, has been organising and promoting BMX Racing since 2011. In March 2014, BMX Ireland became the Cycling Ireland BMX Commission, a sub-committee of the Board of Cycling Ireland.

The BMX Commission continues to proactively engage in all operational, developmental, technical, promotional and governance of BMX Racing in Ireland. It operates under the auspices of the National Federation, Cycling Ireland, and is governed by its Procedures, Rules, Ethics and Codes of Conduct.

The 11 members of the Commission are drawn from the four provinces Leinster, Connacht, Munster and Ulster. The Commission continues to have co-opted members who provide invaluable services such as web and social media, graphic design & publications production, race reports, financial management, coaching and race day operations support.

## **2021 Provincial Commission Members & Their Roles**

- Tom Campbell – Chairperson
- Nathalie Lawlor – Treasurer & National Race Director.
- Eugene Jackson – Child Safety Officer/ National team manager
- Kevin McShane - Ulster Provincial Member.
- Bill Mackness - Secretary & Ulster Provincial Member.
- Eamonn Wyer - National Track Development & Leinster Provincial Member.
- Shay McNally – Race registrar and Website Admin.
- SORCHA McCONNELL – Commission Member.
- Derek Jolly – Munster Provincial member
- Jane Dunne – Commission Member.
- Brendan Tallon- CI board member & consultant

## **Co-opted Commission Members & Their Roles**

- Lar Massey - Media Design & Branding.
- Chad Gilmer - Commission Website & Email hosting and maintenance.

## **National BMX Development Coach**

Jeremy Hayes

## **Activities and Achievements for 2021**

*The 2021 Irish National BMX Race Series was cancelled due to the Covid pandemic.*

- Round 1: April Lisburn BMX
- Round 2: April – Lisburn BMX
- Round 3: May – Courtown BMX
- Round 4: June – Cork BMX
- Round 5: July – Ratoath BMX
- Round 6: July – Ratoath BMX
- Round 7: September – Lucan BMX
- Round 8: September – Lucan BMX

## **The 2021 All-Ireland National Championships**

The 2021 All Ireland BMX National Championships returned in August to Lucan BMX Club facility in St Catherine's Park Dublin.

The All-Ireland Championships is the single biggest one day race in Irish BMX and the National Champion Title is the next most coveted title after the No.1 Plate of the National Series.

The racing was fast and furious, as always, with a record number of both male and female categories racing for the glory of All Ireland Champion. The main event of the day was the Junior Men, Ireland's fastest crop of riders. The race was tight with Calvin Dunne leading the charge all day to win the coveted title and jersey for 2021. Jerseys were also awarded to the younger age categories.

The Cycling Ireland BMX Commission would like to thank the fantastic volunteers of Lucan BMX club for their tireless work to organise and host such a top class event. A fantastic day was had by all who attended. Guests included Mr. John Treacy and Dr Una May from Sport Ireland and Matt McKerrow and Brendan Tallon from Cycling Ireland.



## 2021 Highlights

In 2021, BMX licence holders grew by **63% from 458 in 2020 to 745 in 2021.**

We have seen a sharp increase in BMX freestyle participation with the newly formed Ballyfermot BMX club and St Annes BMX club increasing membership. BMX freestyle is now an Olympic and UCI affiliated discipline and will require support.

The BMX Commission also works closely with clubs to encourage local participation, coaching, Commissar training and race days. BMX clubs are now established as far apart as Cork and Larne in Co Antrim. Track development is on-going.

## International highlights

With no Irish riders competing overseas in 2020/21, The international highlights of the year were the Olympic games where we witnessed our BMX neighbor's Team GB medal in Elite men and Elite women BMX race classes and also in the BMX Freestyle arena.

## Affiliated Cycling Ireland BMX club Memberships 2020/2021

	Club name	Province	Members 2020	Members 2021	Diff
1	Belfast City BMX Club	Antrim	36	80	+44
2	Cork BMX Club	Cork	76	108	+32
3	Courtown BMX Club	Wexford	22	67	+45
4	East Coast Raiders BMX Club	Antrim	8	4	-4
5	Lisburn BMX Club	Antrim	142	158	+16
6	Lucan BMX Club	Dublin	83	134	+51
7	Ballyfermot BMX	Leinster	0	62	+62
8	Ratoath BMX Club	Meath	79	122	+43
9	St. Annes BMX Co-op	Dublin	12	10	-2
			458	745	

## Planned Activities and Goals for 2022

Going forward into the 2022 season and beyond, the BMX Commission is committed to further promoting and developing BMX racing at club and national level, track building, encouraging local participation, and managing our national BMX squad to attain success at international level.



## **Coaching**

Coaching is the key word for 2022. Coaching programs and coach the coach programs to be rolled out at club level by newly qualified coaches.

## **Track Development**

There has been a progressive and sustained race track and pump track building program in place. We have a busy schedule of track development and proposals across all Provinces for 2022. It's a big challenge for us to assist in the development of clubs to manage these tracks. Ratoath BMX club have totally rebuilt their track in 2020 with the help of an OSCAR grant, the upgrade included the first Pro-straight in Ireland. This will help develop the upcoming talent pool. The Commission will also be moving to a transponder timing system using the Mylaps system and matched with Sqorz race software. Ratoath, Lisburn and Lucan BMX clubs will be installing the first systems at their tracks in 2022. The BMX Commission have also invested in a mobile mylaps timing system to use during the 2022 National series. Our plan is to have fixed timing technology at 5 tracks by 2023. Big thanks to Cycling Ireland and Matt McKerrow with their huge support to roll this technology out.

## **National Squad and Rider Development**

The National BMX Squad is heading into its 7th season being managed by the newly appointed Eugene Jackson and UK based coach Jeremy Hayes. The Senior HP Squad consists of Matthew Malone, Calvin Dunne and Matthew Campbell.

The Junior Development squad selection will be re-starting in 2022.

## **Conclusion**

BMX Racing in Ireland has now successfully completed its 10th full season with a 60% increase in BMX license holders from 2020 to 2021. The BMX Commission continues to make steady progress in the development of BMX racing in Ireland. We are continually working to increase our 'promotional activity' for the 2022 National Race Series, which will be formulated over the winter. In the shorter term the Commission will work hard at canvassing for more top-quality tracks to be built in the right places across the nation, more volunteers, more coaches to grow the sport at grass roots level.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge the invaluable support from our colleagues in Cycling Ireland. May we also offer our sincere thanks to all the volunteers who give up their spare time to assist at National Race events, Club events, Coaching, and BMX activities throughout the year.

Yours in Sport.  
Tom Campbell  
Chairperson  
BMX Ireland.