

Youth Race Squad Report

2019 has been another solid year in the development of our Youth Race Squad where the riders have competed across many disciplines and raced the length and breadth of the country as well as internationally.



This year we took three riders back to the three day International Belgian Youth Tour where they all had some excellent individual performances and gained racing experience that only putting yourself up against the finest riders in the world can offer and we had two riders who went to the Netherlands in August to represent the club at the European Youth Tour of Assen which is a six day stage race and again held their own brilliantly and came away with a wealth of new experiences.



Off road Tony Walton continues to do a brilliant job in coaching and leading our squad members who gravitate more towards this side of the sport and this season a number have travelled all over the country representing the club and producing some amazing performances at Cyclo Cross National Trophy events, regional Cyclo Cross leagues, National Series MTB and this side of the

youth race squad in particular continues to thrive and generates healthy interest both in terms of racing and coaching.

Ewan Grady also represented the race squad in a number of the club and open time trials and qualified for the national 10 mile final. This is another area where I intend to put much more focus in 2020 and I hope to see a number of our squad racing in the club Monday night TT series next year.

On the road side although having a handful of relatively solid hardcore riders, we still struggle with numbers both on youth club runs and at regional and national level races, both of which are disappointing. This season we have only had three of four riders on the majority of our club runs and also at races and this is something that we really need to focus and work on as a club as we need strong representation across all disciplines if we are to thrive.

It has been recently suggested that once bowl road training re commences in January that a number of weeks could be given over to the older and more experienced riders going out on a longer youth club run as opposed to doing skills based sessions at the bowl which the majority of the riders have done for a number of years and are now proficient at. This will be further discussed and I hope this will be implemented as it could bring many benefits all round for the older ones as well as freeing up coach resource and time for the often larger numbers of younger riders who attend and with 2020 being an Olympic year we may well see a further upturn in numbers around that time.

Moving forward to 2020 we are currently in discussion with British Cycling about the club joining one of the Sunday morning track clusters at Derby Arena, this will then allow us to offer guaranteed track time once a month to any of our riders aged 9 upwards and this is crucial if we are to give them a pathway firstly towards track accreditation and then onto competitive track league.

Additionally, for those in youth A&B who have aspirations of working towards the BC academy program for road racing then it's a pre requisite that they must be competing also on the track as it's a combined program so it's vital we have a clear pathway for them to follow from as early as possible.

On the current BC performance pathway we have riders on both the circuit and track programs as well as MTB. Rob Sharman who is the Talent Development coach for our region also visited one of our Cyclo Cross Wednesday night sessions last week to see how we were performing and was hugely impressed with what he saw and we are in on going discussion with him on ways to move even further forward and he's coming back for an evening soon to hold a workshop for the riders and parents on training programs, the talent pathway and what BC and the club can do to facilitate their progress through this.

I'm very confident in the riders we have continuing their excellent progress into next year and I really feel we will see some breakthrough performances in 2020 from many of them.



Thank you to everyone for your support this year and I look forward to informing you of our continued progress.

David Lea