

AGM - Chairman's Address 2018.

1. Thanks to the outgoing committee; Brendan McCartan, Seamus Doyle, Paul Toner, Julie Rea, Jay Gault, Eamon Gorman and Peter Brown for their work and support during the year. We're looking to refresh some position positions for 2019.
2. Thanks too to our main sponsors, Traction Finance, McConvey Cycles and Gerry Maguire Solicitors for their continued support and to the various race/sportive sponsors during the year.
3. A particular thanks goes out to Jerry Staple (Origin Digital) for all of his work on the development of the new website. This is greatly appreciated by the membership of the club and the new website is stunning. More from Jerry later on the new website.
4. Club's finances continue to be on a sound footing as outlined in the treasurer's report – a special mention to Seamus for his continued good work as club treasurer over the past number of years. He's decided to stand down for 2019, so we're seeking a replacement here at the AGM.
5. Club continues to maintain its position as one of the strongest in Ulster/Ireland in terms of membership (c317 members) but our numbers have been steadily declining on the past 2 years from close to 400.
6. We should try to encourage lapsed members to re-join, so if you know any give them a nudge.

7. We continue to have a good mix of racers/Leisure Cyclists and our Women's section continues to go from strength to strength.
8. The Saturday club runs still have over 100 members participating.
9. Sunday runs have continued, but still remain smaller than Saturday mornings. Thanks go to Eamon Burns for always being there on a Saturday and Sunday morning to welcome, organise and encourage all club members and newcomers as well as his post every Friday outlining the club activities each weekend.
10. Thanks to everyone on the Race Committee (and to Paul T for heading this up) for their hard work organising every race and keeping the races safe. Paul too has decided to stand down and a new race secretary will be in place for 2019.
11. The Club Sportive was again run on the Co Down route in partnership with L&CCC. A great event and I'd encourage all members to support/ participate in next year's, which will be planned over the next few months. Total funds raised for the Lord Mayors Charities was c£3k.
12. Communications are always an issue within a club as big as ours but our new brilliant website will help enormously in this respect. We're looking for a few volunteers to act as site administrators and again there will be more from Jerry about this later.
13. Social media is excellent for publicising the clubs activities and Jerry, Jude and others regular contributors are very

active in raising the profile of the club on Facebook and Twitter. However, there have been issues with the use of WhatsApp groups and inappropriate/offensive messages have been posted. Brendan posted a message on the message board and the golden rule is that these WhatsApp groups should only be used for cycling related issues and nothing else.

14. We are one club, fortunately with many members, but we need more volunteers for various roles; C Run captains, race marshals, sportive organisers, providing food at club events/races etc. Another appeal for volunteers to help share the burden.

15. Can I pay a special tribute to the people who have regularly volunteered as organisers, marshals and club-captains, caterers/food providers and servers at club events outriders at the various events like the marathon etc.

16. Significant/Notable achievements in 2018: -

- a. Donal Shearer had an excellent year winning the Foyle GP and Dunloy GP and coming 6th in the National Hill Climb in September;
- b. Pdraig Rogan and Conal McKee were also on the podium for races too;
- c. It's great to see the emergence of these young guns and Jay tells me there's more to come from them and other emerging talents in the club.

17. Phoenix members are also keen travellers, going to Majorca, Nice, Mijas, Alicante, Westport and many more venues far too numerous to mention.

18. Socially we had 2 events, Club Dinner and Juggling Run. Thanks to all who organised these.
19. Unfortunately there have been a number of injuries/deaths on our road in the past year and cycling safety remains a concern for all of us.
20. Ride captains could also take a lead role in reminding their group members about safe/considerate cycling. Importance of good etiquette/discipline too. Unfortunately, Cycle-phobes (thanks to the Nolan Show there) are becoming increasingly common and we need to be both careful/considerate, when we're out on runs.
21. It has been pleasing to note the increased numbers going out in the club kit at weekends and we should all encourage this. We have a motion later from Maurice on a proposed change to the winter club kit.
22. We now look forward to a safe and successful 2019 and building/developing the club further.
23. Finally, I too am standing down and I've proposed Julie as the new Chairperson for 2019 (and the first female chair to my knowledge) – no better person, in my view, but I don't want to pre-empt the election.