

MTB Sub-Committee Report 2025

Ian Browns XC Series

The cross-country season started off strong with turnout of 68 at Le Guet for Rd. 1. The numbers generally stayed in the high 50's for the majority of the season with the 6th round dropping to 37 for the second race at La Pomare. The under 10/12's made up approximately 40% of the total.

Most of the categories had an even distribution of participants apart from the sport category which has seen a decline in riders. For the most part this has meant that we have run one combined race for all the adult categories. Although this saves time on the day it is at the misfortune of the remaining sport riders. We will need to look at ways to promote the sport category to boost numbers.

Land has been an ongoing issue with the Norgiots and Underground hospital being unavailable for use. This had a knock on affect in the calendar which led to Pomare being used twice. As above the second visit had the lowest attendance of the season. However, the calendar saw the return of Beaucette marine with a new section of common land, which was well received by riders. Courses remained challenging throughout the year with a good mix of technical and endurance sections. Moving forward it will be a priority to secure land use for next season and work together across the disciplines within the club to maintain good relations with land owners.

Due to the island games this year, the calendar had been front loaded to aid participating riders with training. This also led straight into the tour of Guernsey. However, the break in-between this and final two round may have been too long in hindsight. Next year's calendar will hopefully see a more even spread of events throughout the year.

Adventure Cycles Gravity Series

The 2025 gravity series return with an 8 round series spread evenly over the (supposedly) drier months of the year. This had a consistent turnout of around 30 riders for the majority of round. There has been a large increase in the under 12 and 14 categories. But a decline in the adult categories, leading to an overall drop in numbers from last year.

The first half of the season ran smoothly. A decision was made to postpone Rd.5 due to availability of people and a busy calendar. This had a knock on affect, which would see the last two round confirmed at very short notice. Despite this the last round was very well attended.

On a positive note, we saw a few new additions to existing courses to keep things exciting. We also gained permission to run an enduro at L'ancresse. Unfortunately, due to weather this would not come to fruition, but the decision was key for maintaining relations with the common council. We will look to run this earlier in the 2026 calendar.

There were two incidents that occurred at Rd's 6 and 8. This has raised issues of sign on sheets and emergency contacts, making it key to sign-on on the day. However, I do believe

that sports member has its place in aiding organisers with attending numbers and sharing of information.

Tour of Guernsey

The tour was as popular as ever, even though we were missing the island games riders. The weather was good for the majority of the week leading to some good racing in the sun. The tour set up crew worked tirelessly in the weeks running up to the event ensuring the courses offered something different from the previous year while staying true to the fun nature of the event. The new venue for the presentation was also a welcome change at the Guernsey pearl.

Both the XC and gravity series would not be possible without the tireless work of people behind the scenes. From land organisation, safeguarding, timekeeping, first aid and course set up, the list goes on. Nothing would be possible without the people that give up their time to fill these roles and I'm extremely grateful to them for making my life easier this year. We do however always need more people to step forward and fill these roles to ensure we always have cover when the usual people are unavailable.

A big thank you also to Ian Browns for sponsoring the XC series, and Adventure Cycles for sponsoring the Gravity series and the Tour.

This has been my first year in the position and it has been a learning curve. That said, I would be happy to re-stand next year along with Nor, (Unless anybody else has a burning desire to take it on).