**VC Venta – Go-Ride**

**Report for AGM 2023 – Thursday 20 November**

# Thank you

I would like to thank all the volunteers who gave up their time to ensure that Go-Ride continues to provide a fun, enjoyable coaching series for all the young cyclists that attend each Sunday afternoon: Steve Swift, Tommy Swift, Paul Barker, Marianna Koperdanova, Malcolm Cross, Raf Izak, Leah Burton, and Marium Zain.

A special thank goes to Richard Sambrook-Smith who stepped back as Go-Ride Lead at the end of the Summer series. Richard has been the driving force behind our Go-Ride offering for a number of years, and I am very grateful for the support he has provided me as I take this on into 2024.

# Go-Ride Sessions

We ran an (almost) full Go-Ride series this year at the South Winchester Park & Ride, consisting of 6 sessions in each of the Spring, Summer and Autumn series’. Unfortunately, due to travellers on site and poor weather (lightning), we lost a few sessions.

We offered a total of 45 spaces for each series to ensure that we kept within the BC limits for each of the available coaches. Overall, we had a total of 114 riders registered across the three series:

* Spring 46
* Summer 39
* Autumn 29

This is lower than the 125 riders we saw in 2022 and we will be looking at how we extend our reach as we move into the 2024 season.

# Looking forward to 2024

Some focus areas for 2024 remain the same as last year, with some new ideas we are going to explore thrown into the mix.

**Coaches and volunteer helpers**. To maintain and enhance the fantastic offer the club has to the community we are always on the lookout for more qualified BC coaches and volunteer helpers. Marianna Koperdanova joined the team this year and has allowed us to continue to offer 4-5 groups across the season, but we need more coaches to provide us flexibility and cover so that we can continue to do this into the future. I’d encourage anyone interested in becoming a coach or volunteering as a helped at Go-Ride to get in touch to discuss how this works.

**Marketing reach**. We’re keen to see the numbers attending Go-Ride increase in 2024. To achieve this I plan to create a Go-Ride news-flash email that will initially be sent to everyone who has participated in the Go-Ride programme over the last couple of years. We’ll also continue to promote Go-Ride via our social channels, and provide fliers to local schools to email home to parents.

**Session Structure and Content**. We will be developing the session plans to support the new (and old) coaches delivering Go-Ride. This will ensure we have a consistent set of achievable and progressive content that is fun, enjoyable, offers challenge, and is engaging for the young cyclists.

**Easier session organisation and parent comms**. Earlier in the year we looked at a couple of apps that other local clubs use to coordinate their coaching sessions and communicate with parents. We identified Spond as a promising tool with useful features for both coaches and parents. I intend to run a trial of Spond over the winter with the current Go-Ride coaches before deciding whether to give it a go for the Spring series next year. (I’d like to call out Marium Zain for taking the initiative on this, and speaking to many of our Go-Ride parents about the apps other local clubs use.)

**Finding an alternative venue**. With so many of the sessions lost this year we will be stepping up the search for an alternative Go-Ride location, either permanently or for those occasions we are unable to use the Park & Ride.

Andy Watkins

VC Venta – Head of Go-Ride