





A stylized orange scorpion illustration is visible in the bottom left corner of the circular graphic. It has a segmented body, pincers, and several pairs of legs.

**Sulis**  
**Scorpions**

**Annual Report**  
**2019-2020**

# Who Are We?

## Committee:

- Jason Dodd, Chair
- Fiona Vallis, Vice-chair, Bath CC Representative
- Richard Heath, Secretary
- Eugene Kertzman, Head Coach, Somer Valley Representative
- Mike Woodward, Treasurer
- Robert Weeks, Membership Secretary
- Amy Francis, Club Welfare Officer 1
- Gareth Dixon, Club Welfare Officer 2
- Sarah Crowther, Youth Committee Representative
- Ryan Cains, Volunteer Co-ordinator
- Chris Crowther, Avid Representative
- Steve Glass, Salt and Sham Representative
- Felix Young, VC Walcot Representative

## Coaches (British Cycling trained)

- Ryan Cains, Level 2
- Chris Crowther, Level 2
- Sarah Crowther, Level 2
- Jason Dodd, Level 2, plus Track Award (Velodrome)
- Richard Franklin, Level 2, plus Track Award (Velodrome) and CX Award
- Steve Glass, Level 2, plus Road & Time Trial Award and CX Award
- Joanna Goodhead, Level 1
- Eugene Kertzman, Level 3, Level 2 plus Road & Time Trial Award
- Robbie Laughlin, Level 1
- Alan Mowat, Level 2
- Luke Watson, Level 2
- Emily Slavin, Training as coach

## Volunteers

- Leon Gierat
- Justin Ryan
- Bill Vallis
- Jean-Yves Cherrault
- Laurence Howard
- Martin Harris
- Chris Cannings
- Simon Pearcey
- Steve Burrige
- Ed Tucker
- Vicky Gierat
- Dave Purcell

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- **INTRODUCTION**

- Sulis Scorpions Youth Cycling Alliance was formed in April 2013 to enable young people to participate in all types of cycle sport. We are based at the dedicated 1.5 km cycle circuit at Odd Down, Bath. Membership of the club is open to any youth or junior between the ages of 7 and 18 years who wishes to improve their cycling skills and/or develop their participation in cycle sport, regardless of sex, age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or other beliefs.

- **CLUBMARK STATUS**

- Joining a select group of cycling clubs across the country, in June 2018 Sulis Scorpions fulfilled the necessary criteria to achieve British Cycling's Go-Ride Clubmark status and now holds this prestigious accreditation. Clubmark is a universally acknowledged cross sport scheme introduced by Sport England for community sports clubs, which recognises high standards in welfare, equality, coaching and club management.

- **MEMBERSHIP**

- The club currently has 109 youth members and 33 adult members (volunteers, coaches and committee). We have 31 female youth members, representing 23% of our membership. 69 (63%) of our youth members are in the under 12 age groups. Our membership is close to full capacity with demand for places remaining high; our waiting list has grown to almost 50, as we have been unable to run any inductions during the COVID-19 enforced shutdown.



## Chair's Report

It has been a challenging year for our club. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Lockdown in the UK, we had to cancel our sessions between 14th March and 22nd August.

Our sessions resumed using our COVID-19 procedures in August and after a couple of weeks of lower attendances (which was expected), our attendance has returned to normal levels. It's really great to see the kids back at the circuit and enjoying their cycling and re-establishing their friendships.

We will continue our cautious approach to our sessions over the coming months with a view to returning to normality as soon as the situation allows. Thanks to everyone who played a part in getting our sessions back on, and to all parents and riders for following the procedures we have put in place.

I would like to thank our dedicated bunch of Coaches and Volunteers who give up their time freely each week, and without whom, we would not be able to operate. We are always on the lookout for new volunteers and particularly for coaching roles, so please come forward if you are interested in helping.

I am stepping down as Club Chair at this meeting, but will continue to coach each weekend and remain associated with the club. It has been a real pleasure to hold the Chair and to be involved with this great club.





# Treasurer Report

Sulis Scorpions remains in a secure financial situation with committee continually seeking best value for money opportunities to reinvest in the club.

During the accounting period 1 Jan 19 – 31 Dec 19 we had a surplus of income over expenditure of £104.07 and a sale value of kit/clothing held In stock of £4458.00, a reduction of £678.00 over the year. The club continues to discount the kit / clothing sold to our riders making it exceptional value and we cover the cost of Sulis Scorpion riders entering British Cycling races that we organise at Odd Down as well as discounting our popular Newport Velodrome trips.

Due to COVID-19 the AGM was deferred so an interim statement of accounts was prepared for the period 1 Jan 20 – 31 Aug 20. During this period, we had a surplus of income over expenditure of £1280.85. The sale value of kit/clothing held In stock was not calculated for this interim statement. At the onset of the COVID-19 lockdown the committee took the unanimous decision allow riders to reduce their monthly membership / session fees to £00.01. Many riders took advantage of this opportunity whilst a proportion decided to leave their standing orders unchanged. Membership / session fees were reinstated to £9.00 per month on 1 Sep 20.

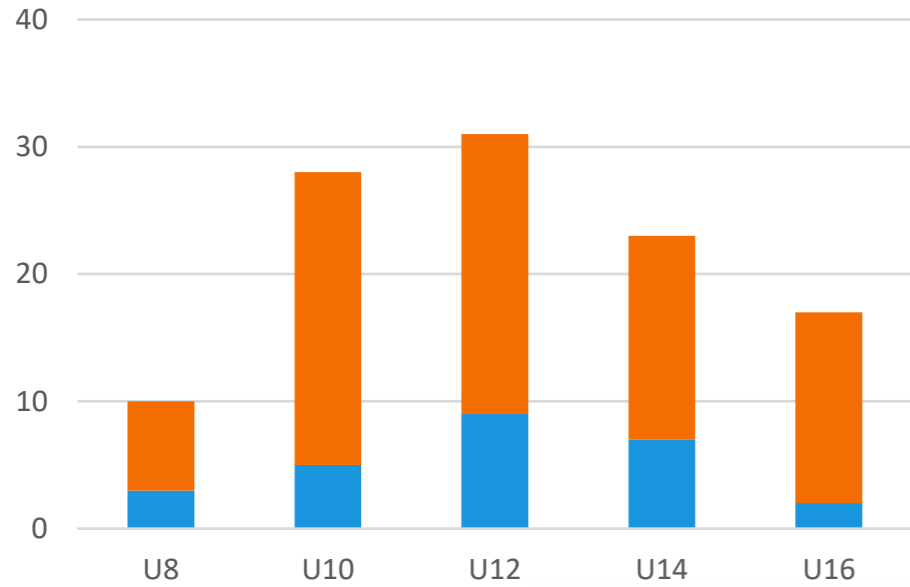
Given the club's strong financial situation, monthly membership / session fees are foreseen to remain the same for the foreseeable future.

Mike Woodward

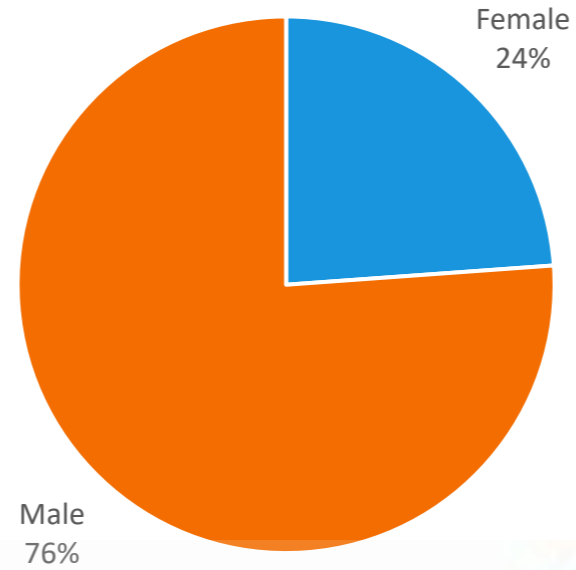
Treasurer

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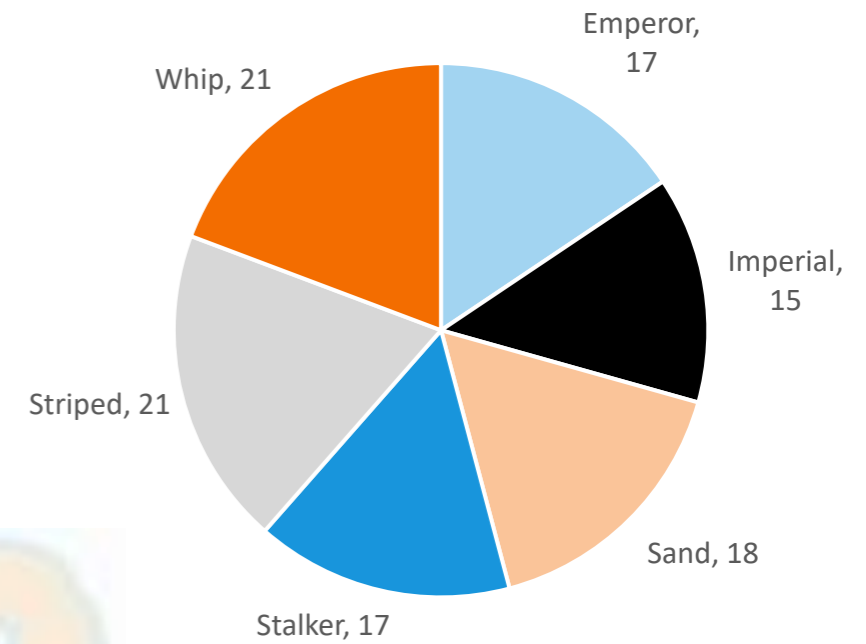
Members by age category



Male and female members



Members per coaching group



Female Male

Category	Total	Male	Female
U8	10	7	3
U10	28	23	5
U12	31	22	9
U14	23	16	7
U16	17	15	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>26</b>

Gender	Members
Female	26
Male	83

Group	Members
Whip	21
Sand	18
Emperor	17
Striped	21
Stalker	17
Imperial	15

# Membership by age and gender

## Coaching Groups and Racing

Group name and time	Coaches
Endurance Group 9:00	Richard and Jason
Induction 9:00 (as and when)	Jason
Whip 10:00	Eugene & Jason
Sand 10:00	Sarah
Emperor 10:00	Ryan & Jenson
Striped 11:00	Steve & Alan
Stalker 11:00	Richard
Imperial 11:00	Jason
Assistant coaches:	Chris Luke Joanna Robbie

### Our aims:

1. Increasing access to cycle sport for young people
2. Developing core cycling skills for young people
3. Coaching young people to compete in cycle sport
4. Organising accessible, inclusive and enjoyable competitive cycle sport events for young people
5. Enabling young people to progress to club riding and other branches of cycle sport.
6. Provide volunteering and coaching opportunities for adults and young people to develop these skills in the cycling environment.

### The Coaching Team:

We currently have a team of 11 coaches including three newly qualified at level 1. It's great seeing young volunteers coming through and doing coaching qualifications! (Jenson). The departure of Matt Shonfeld and David Sleight has left us under staffed on the team which is making it quite difficult to cover all the groups every Saturday. We have a number of volunteers willing to train as coaches and we are now able to do an 'in-house' level 1 which means prospective coaches can go straight to level 2 once they have completed our little coaching induction program. We are keen to get the volunteers trained as soon as possible so if you are interested and haven't yet been in touch then please let us know. Funding is available for the training courses. Please speak to Eugene Kertzman for more information ([headcoach@sulisscorpions.co.uk](mailto:headcoach@sulisscorpions.co.uk))



## Coaching Groups and Racing

### Coaching

We have now moved to an annual coaching programme which means all the coaches coach the same topic but at the level suitable to their groups. So you may see the Whip group practicing their cornering at a more slower speed and then again see the Imperials doing the same corners later but at a far greater speed; the result of their progress. It is fair to say that all the coaches do a great job in progressing their riders to better levels and it is great to see riders making it to adult clubs and race teams when they become 18. Having said that the club is also keen to provide a coaching program that is fun and social for all riders whether or not they plan to race. The ultimate aim is that they all ride their bikes more, in whatever way! Progression usually occurs when there is an induction course as this is when new places are required in the groups for the new riders. Coaches will progress riders when they have shown they have the technical skills as well as the speed to be in the next group up. This may well happen at other times of the year as well!

### Racing

In 2019 we had a number of club events:

- 5 Time Trials
- 3 British Cycling open races
- 2 Club races
- 1 Cyclo Cross event

Since the club made the entries for British Cycling races free the numbers have steadily been going up to the effect that there are now more Sulis Scorpions taking part than other club members, a great success. The podium places have also been going up. Time trial and club results can be found here: <http://www.chiptimingresults.co.uk/series.aspx?CId=61&RId=344>

### Sulis Scorpions Race Bikes Loan Scheme

We have a number of loan racing bikes available. If you are in a tight spot with bikes, need one for a period of time or find it difficult to afford a new one when your youngster has grown out of his/her current bike then have a word with one of the coaches or Ryan at the gate.

## Racing Development

For Scorpion riders age 14 and over who want to focus on developing racing skills and experience beyond Sulis Scorpions we have close links with AVID Sport and act as a feeder club to this team. Further details can be obtained from Felix Young or Chris Crowther. Here are some of the numbers from their last year of racing.

# AVID SPORT IN NUMBERS

- **36** RIDERS IN 2019
- **4,257** LIKES AND VIEWS ON INSTAGRAM (UP FROM 2,353 IN 2018).
- **2ND** RANKED TEAM IN THE SOUTH REGION (UP FROM 6TH IN 2018).
- **8** RIDERS MADE THEIR NATIONAL RACING DEBUT & **16** RIDERS RACED FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER.
- OVER **600** EVENTS RACED SO FAR THIS YEAR (UP FROM 300 IN THE WHOLE OF 2018).
- **34** RACES WON (UP FROM 20 IN 2018).

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## SULIS SCORPIONS CLUB KIT

The club kit has continued to be popular and has sold well over the year – new members have been keen to wear the club colours and coaching sessions at the circuit are a blur of black, blue and orange!

Prices are generously subsidised by the club and have remained unchanged for the past two years.

## Kit prices

Jersey - short sleeved half zip relaxed fit	£15
Jersey - short sleeved full zip closer fit	£25
Jersey - long sleeved full zip winter fabric	£30
Shorts - non-bib	£20
Shorts - bib	£25
Arm warmers	£10
Hoodies	£ 5
Bufs	£ 7

Under normal circumstances Sulis Scorpions Kit can be purchased on selected Saturdays that are communicated in advance via regular club emails. Alternatively contact the Vice Chair on [vicechair@sulisscorpions.co.uk](mailto:vicechair@sulisscorpions.co.uk) a size guide is on the website [sulisscorpions.co.uk](http://sulisscorpions.co.uk) under club kit.



# CLUB WELFARE

- The club continues to put the welfare of our members at the forefront of all we do and adheres to the British Cycling Safeguarding Policy and our own Codes of Conduct. All coaches are aware of their welfare responsibilities and have received the appropriate training.
- Following on from our call at last year's AGM for a second Welfare Officer, we are very pleased that Gareth Dixon has stepped forward to take this role, and along with Amy Francis, we now meet our club's requirement to have two Welfare Officers at all times.
- Recent challenges have meant we have needed to introduce extra procedures and measures to our Saturday sessions. Thank you to all the volunteers, parents and riders for your ongoing support with the changes we have had to make.
- If any child, parent, coach or volunteer has any concerns about the welfare of any club member, please do come and talk to Amy or Gareth, we can usually be found at the circuit on Saturdays. Alternatively please contact us both via email: [welfare\\_team@sulisscorpions.co.uk](mailto:welfare_team@sulisscorpions.co.uk) . If you would prefer to contact us individually:  
Amy's email is [welfare@sulisscorpions.co.uk](mailto:welfare@sulisscorpions.co.uk) and  
Gareth's email is: [welfare2@sulisscorpions.co.uk](mailto:welfare2@sulisscorpions.co.uk)
- **All concerns will be taken seriously and will be treated in confidence.**





# VOLUNTEERS

- We are pleased to report that the Scorpions continue to be supported by an amazing team of volunteers and so on behalf of the committee, coaches and all of the Scorpions I want to say a big thank you to all of our volunteers.
- 2020 has seen the number of active volunteers decrease slightly due to older Scorpions moving on and taking their parents with them. Over the course of lockdown, this hasn't caused us any problems, however now that we are back, and with the extra challenges we have in order to operate in a safe way, we need more people to step forward and offer to volunteer.
- Typical volunteer duties consist of controlling access to the circuit via the gate, marshalling, sign-on at races and time trials. If you would like to help, please feel free to talk to me (Ryan Cains - Volunteer Co-ordinator & Coach).

***Without our Volunteers there is no **Sulis Scorpions!*****



