

Team Milton Keynes – New website position 2020

Members may recall that until last year we were using British Cycling for our membership management system for membership renewal and our website. While the website did not meet all our needs it worked well enough and thanks to Adam Pearson's input could be shaped to a reasonable position. However British Cycling informed us that they would no longer support club websites which meant we had to set up a copy of our website – just the main text pages with the few menus which you see now. This is not a useable solution as it is cumbersome and requires technical website knowledge to manage and update content.

That means we currently use British Cycling for Membership management plus the temporary website as a holding position to maintain our presence. Given our experience with suppliers (our previous website supplier also pulled the plug on us) our aim now is to have our own website and not rely on another supplier to manage membership etc. We don't have the resources to write a site from scratch to meet our exact requirements so are looking to use open source suppliers plus a few plugins to create what we need. We have set up a working group to identify the club's requirements. Adam Pearson is leading the technical development and is looking at potential systems and components that could provide an overall solution.

The main elements that we are looking to have in a new website are:

- Membership management, for members to renew and update their details as necessary
- A forum for discussion, updates, ideas, plans, feedback, questions etc
- Information about all club activity, where to find information and take part in club activities
- News blog – general update area about all club activity
- Event booking system – to enable members to book onto and pay for charged training sessions and non-charged activities
- Calendar of events
- Newsletter communication feature

An off the shelf open access system is being evaluated and tested to see that it can meet the main essential functions we need to provide support to members and to reduce the administrative workload that is currently required. We hope that we can continue to make progress as we move into 2021 but are not yet in a position to say when this could be ready.