



Wales National Velodrome  
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01 April 2014

02 APR 2014

Wendy James  
Coroner's Office  
Victoria Chambers  
11 Clytha Park Road  
Newport, Gwent  
NP20 4PB

Dear Ms James,

**Ref: Benjamin James Carroll**

First, we wish to reiterate our sympathies with the family and friends of Ben Carroll and with all those affected by his death and are grateful for this opportunity to respond to the Coroner's request.

Welsh Cycling is the national governing body for cycle sport in Wales and all cycling competition in Great Britain is regulated by British Cycling (The British Cycling Federation). It is important to note, therefore, that Welsh Cycling cannot unilaterally change the rules and regulations of the sport without the agreement of British Cycling and its constituents.

The safety of riders in events is, of course, of paramount importance to Welsh Cycling and the cycling community is greatly affected when a tragedy such as this occurs.

Every effort is taken to ensure the safety of riders at all events and, indeed, all racing on public roads has been stringently regulated for over 50 years, since the introduction of the 1960 Cycle Racing on the Highway Regulations, ensuring that all races are:

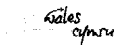
- Authorised by the relevant police force;
- Organised to a consistently high standard with appropriate safety measures in place
- Delivered under standard highway conditions

Prior to all British Cycling / Welsh Cycling events, all participants, including riders, officials, and support staff, are reminded of the conditions that the race is held under, including highlighting the risks associated with the event. All participants are reminded that events are held under standard highway conditions, that accredited marshals are only permitted to stop and hold traffic for short durations, typically at junctions, and that there will be oncoming traffic.

It is important to note, therefore, that accredited marshals are not empowered to suspend standard highway conditions or enforce any kind of road closure, at any point on the course, including race finishes

Such measures, taken to ensure the safety of our competitors, are not limited to officiating on the day, but also involve continuous training and education of officials through a range of interventions which takes place throughout the year.

As a result of the afore-mentioned regulation, preventative measures and training, fatalities are thankfully rare in cycle sport.



Working with British Cycling we are, however, continually monitoring the safety of the sport in this country. We have a programme of training and education for our event officials, from courses to online resources, and we are continuously working to enhance key elements. In recent years we have developed and delivered a series of officials' conferences that have included dedicated risk management workshops in response to incidents and identified areas of risk.

In light of the recent tragic death of Ben and given the desire of more people to get active through competitive cycle sport, we are in the process of implementing a further significant and more widespread programme of training, education and publicity to continue to ensure that all participants are aware of the conditions and regulations under which racing is held and the need to race safely and responsibly.

More specifically we will be launching an awareness campaign called 'racesmart'. The campaign will primarily target participants, but it will also support event organisers and officials in their voluntary roles, to ensure the safe running of all events. Racesmart will carry consistent core messages focussing on safety and responsibility. Targeted activity will range from direct communication to participants via British Cycling's online entry system, through to the development of educational digital content and a managed social media campaign.

We trust that this combination of measures will continue to minimise the risks for riders and other road users.

Yours sincerely

*A. W. Adams-King*

**Anne Adams-King**  
**Chief Executive Officer | Prif Swyddog Gweithredol**

