



## MTBNZ Summit

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> of April 2017

Duncan Cotterill Boardroom, 148 Victoria St  
Christchurch

### **Minutes from MTBNZ South Island Summit**

Held 10:30am - 3pm on 23rd April 2017

#### **Attendees**

Gil Peters (MTBNZ Pres, Rotorua MBC)

Kim Hurst (MTBNZ Sec, PNP)

Chris Arbuckle (MTBNZ Tres, MBO)

Daniel Burgess (Bike Methven)

Antony Nicholls (Bike Methven)

Matthew Hides (Gravity Canterbury)

Howard McConachie (Gravity Canterbury)

Clarence Hebblethwaite (Gravity Canterbury)

Kristy Booth (MBO)

Rebekah Tregurtha (ChCh Singletrack)

Craig Tregurtha (ChCh Singletrack)

Hannah Strickland (Canterbury MBC)

Neil German (Canterbury MBC)

Ian MacDonald (North Canterbury Cycle Club)

Jane Lucas (Gravity Canterbury)

Ruth Sarson (Gravity Canterbury)

Kristen Fellers (Gravity Canterbury)

Kathryn Oliver (North Canterbury)

David Oliver (North Canterbury)

Paul Cooper (North Canterbury)

## **1. Introduction by MTBNZ President, Gil Peters**

Aim of the Summit to formulate ideas and strategy for key MTBNZ activities for 2017/18, in particular around the National Series 2017/18.

## **2. Key areas of improvement in 2016/2017:**

### **a. Communication**

A robust club email database has been established. Clubs now receive regular updates for CNZ training courses, TFNZ grants, National MTB Performance Hub news, MTBNZ events and activities, reminders and other useful information.

MTBNZ website moved to CNZ as hosts creating better alignment as a single point resource for licensing and information as well as significant cost saving for MTBNZ to enable funds to be better utilised elsewhere. Website has professional appearance and acts as a resource with organisational document library online including DH Protective Equipment Policy, AGM/SGM Minutes, Concussion Awareness Policy. **It was recommended that this to be expanded as a resource including blank framework documents for clubs to use. Feedback received about some difficulties with online portal for licensing and/or membership for MTBNZ to raise with CNZ.**

A separate National Championships website was constructed for the 2017 event, acting as the single, primary source of information for the event. This provided much better clarity of information. **Feedback received regarding ongoing difficulties using online entry (primarily dropping out before payment processed).**

Significant improvement in visibility and reach across community via social media (predominantly Facebook). MTBNZ Facebook page growth from 3,000 to almost 8,000 likes in last 10 months with reach around 20,000 for posts. Demographic shift from 30-50 year old males to those in teens and twenties and increased inclusivity of women. Improved engagement with posts from racers to clubs to organisational updates as well as Kiwi mountain biking. Now that there is an established base, **MTBNZ will move towards enhancing profiling of affiliated club based activities and events for 2017/18.**

#### **b. Better Partnership with CNZ**

Historic segregation of MTBNZ from CNZ (formerly Bike NZ). Alignment and partnership is essential for the survival of MTBNZ which is a volunteer based organisation with limited funding streams (largely derived from club affiliation levies). MTBNZ is a member organisation of governing body CNZ. Better alignment enhances visibility for funding as well as specialist (MTB sport specific) knowledge input to CNZ. Particular areas of success in collaborative activities recently have been National Championships (event delivery and promotion) and in ensuring insurance and liability cover is fit for purpose. **MTBNZ continues to provide advocacy for sport of MTB. MTBNZ will continue to develop a positive relationship with CNZ.**

#### **c. Concussion Awareness Policy**

MTBNZ's Concussion Awareness Policy (CAP) was launched in January 2017 after feedback from the DH community. **There is a strong desire amongst the DH racing community for a Concussion Racing Policy to be implemented but for successful implementation this requires a consistent level of National event standard plus training of those undertaking medical assessments to ensure consistency in application.** The CAP benefits all riders both recreational and competitive. Gravity Canterbury provided hard copies of the CAP for all racers at NZ Open to enhance awareness. George Brannigan and Wyn Masters are rider ambassadors for Policy. ACC are very supportive of MTBNZ's CAP and wish to work more closely with MTBNZ to ensure promotion of the policy is maximised. **MTBNZ to discuss opportunities with ACC on this topic.**

#### **d. Insurance & Affiliation**

MTBNZ's affiliation model was revamped last year to ensure better access and equity for large and small clubs alike. This has been generally well received. Club affiliation for 2017 is nearly double that of 2016 after more consistent engagement with clubs, the benefits of the updated affiliation model and the requirement for MTB clubs to be affiliated with MTBNZ to access CNZ insurance. Club affiliations currently sits at 21 clubs covering 5,000 financial members. MTBNZ is almost entirely funded by club affiliation levies and as a result the organisation's financial position is now much more viable than last year. Significant work has been undertaken ensuring insurance and liability cover that is fit for purpose while providing value to affiliated clubs. Optional higher tier insurance cover is also available now, which has also been welcomed by clubs. A new document outlining cover is currently being constructed and is welcomed.

Less race focused clubs still need to be sure of value of affiliation. Currently, a prime motivator for affiliation is access to affordable and robust insurance cover. Wider benefits of affiliation to MTBNZ include: fostering regional collaboration and partnerships/networking; supporting the viability of the organisation to ensure ongoing advocacy to CNZ and other sporting organisations; providing a resource for support and advice; access to grants for junior riders. These are all being re-established and are highly valued but not necessarily visible to individual clubs. Recent input from MTBNZ to NZ Mountain Safety Council for the development of NZMSC's backcountry riding guideline one example of the organisation's wider involvement in non-racing aspect of the sport. "Value add" factors for affiliation should be more heavily promoted by MTBNZ so clubs can explain the value of their affiliation to their club members.

The affiliation process was discussed. It was highlighted by North Canterbury that while the process involves multiple steps, it remains more efficient than the Road & Track equivalent. Clubs would welcome a one-step process whereby the entire sum of affiliation to MTBNZ and CNZ is paid directly to MTBNZ and for MTBNZ to then pay the \$225 CNZ affiliation fee per club to the

governing body. MTBNZ will discuss this with CNZ to aid the streamlining for the process for 2018 and beyond.

### **3. DH Protective Equipment Policy**

It was raised that the **DH Protective Equipment Policy needs to be updated**. A vibrant discussion followed about the use of neck braces and gloves. Currently, the policy outlines that neck braces are mandatory for juniors and gloves are optional. There is an associated cost burden of neck braces which could be offset by ACC and/or MTBNZ funding a number of neck braces to be loaned out for races. **MTBNZ to review the DH Protective Equipment Policy. Race organisers to consider adding to disclaimer about helmets being in good condition with no previous damage.**

### **4. National Series 2017/18**

A substantial discussion was held around what the National Series should aim to deliver; namely a step between club racing and National Champs to enable progression of racers. Potential event formats and number of rounds for the National Series discussed from both perspectives of club resource and MTBNZ funding capacity. **Five National events per year (including Oceania Championships alternate years) eg for 2017/18 season 3 National Series rounds plus National Championships plus Oceania Championships strikes a good balance.** Distribution of points and/or a rider's ability to drop rounds was discussed. **An "all points count" model to encourage and reward participation across the Series was agreed upon.** National Championships should double as final for National Series and should be promoted and delivered as the pinnacle event in conjunction with CNZ. **Club support of MTBNZ and MTBNZ re-establishing trust among clubs is essential for the National Series to be deliverable and sustainable.**

The one day format was very successful for DHCoNZ Series. The National Series should be run to the same format given the proven success. There is a high desire for "fresh" courses/experiences among racers. Reducing the burden of race Series from six events (as run by DHCoNZ last season) helps offset repetitive utilisation of same venues. **Shuttling volume critical for DH events to ensure**

sufficient practice time and exposure to course ahead of race runs for the one day format. Shuttle capacity must be considered for National Series host clubs.

DH and XC should be run separately to ensure courses are suitably challenging for both disciplines and host clubs not overstretched. Those involved with DHCoNZ Series reinforced the importance of appointing a Race Manager for each event. A robust discussion was held about the importance of Commissaires. Commissaries are mandatory for National level events to ensure a consistent standard for implementation of regulations as well as developing our pool of Commissaires by providing them with opportunity to gain exposure to enable a stable resource nationally for UCI categorised events/World Cup bids in the future. A longer term goal of each club having a Commissaire would promote strong relationships between officials and clubs and reduce the travel cost burden for officials to attend races. The next MTB Commissaire course run by CNZ is 30 Sep 2017, Rotorua.

Manpower requirements for club involvement with National events mainly hinge on Commissaires not adding to cost burden for club. Clubs would like to retain profit from event as the benefit of hosting and to acknowledge the associated work. Good levels of racer participation is important to ensure more than a "break even" financial outcome so a true reward is achieved. MTBNZ agree that cost of Commissaires should not be an additional burden the clubs are expected to cover.

MTBNZ have an updated Event Guideline document for clubs providing clear outline of requirements for National events. The importance of UCI standards to be adhered to for National events was discussed but it was acknowledged that there is no need for events to be registered with UCI for points given the associated financial burden (particularly for next 1-2 years). The cost burden of UCI points was a significant deterrent for club involvement in previous years.

Access to timing equipment is a common challenge for many clubs. The cost of a single timing systems provider for the National Series should be sought but it may be more financially effective to pool resources regionally with clubs who have already invested in timing systems. Live timing

is highly desirable for National events, particularly to ensure prompt turnaround of DH qualification times in condensed one day format.

While highly desirable to have the nation's best racers competing at National Series events, wider participation ensures sustainability of events. Improve profile of age group Series winners by acknowledging achievement with overall Series winner jerseys for both disciplines.

There was very high turnout at the recent Schools event run by Huxster in conjunction with North Canterbury Cycling Club. 580 juniors/youths competed in the relay format event. Aim to promote transition of 10% of those riders to National Series and/or National Championships. Aim for regional distribution of National event information to schools to assist with promotion of local clubs and upcoming events enhancing the sport's visibility to this audience. North Canterbury highlighted club success in increasing participation at National Championships through supporting coaching and skills training for suitable riders as well as \$150 grants to help reduce cost burden.

Club Series planning activities are usually set in June. Clubs need to have information regarding potential opportunities for involvement with National Series as early after MTBNZ's AGM (May) as possible. The importance of attending and/or appointing proxy for AGM was discussed as well as timely response to EOI mail outs to ensure decisions and planning can occur as efficiently as possible. It was agreed that teleconference facilities would be made available for the AGM to improve accessibility to participation. National Series venues and dates should be published no later than the end of August. The date for National XCO & DH Champs has been set for the third week in February for a further two years. There was further discussion around extending the National Series scheduling to December to reduce a compressed schedule in January and February although back to back weekends in North Island and South Island improves value and reduces the burden of travel for families/racers.

Equipment requirements for event hosting was discussed, particularly regarding course marking and taping. MTBNZ is currently discussing the provision of Altherm branded tape by CNZ to ensure sufficient tape available for course marking. Discounted bulk purchasing for clubs to access via MTBNZ should be explored further.

Consistency in event delivery is critical. Stronger relationships between clubs should be promoted with opportunities for regional collaboration maximised wherever possible. MTBNZ should operate in a manner that promotes trust between the organisation and its affiliated clubs.

## **5. AOB**

The Summit was felt to be a beneficial meeting and **should be continued in following years.**

*Kim Hurst*

*Secretary*

*MTBNZ*

*24/4/17*