

MTBNZ Summit

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Commodore Airport Hotel, Avon North Room , Christchurch

Minutes from MTBNZ South Island Summit

Held 1pm-4:30pm

### Attendees

Gil Peters (MTBNZ President)	Rotorua Mtb Club
Chris Arbuckle (MTBNZ Treasurer)	Mountain Biking Otago
Ryan Hunt (Acting Sec, & General Exec)	Wellington Mountain Bike Club
Gareth Osmond (General Exec)	Tauranga Mountain bike
Kristy Booth	Mountain biking Otago
James Crawford	Mountain Biking Otago
John Butler	Nelson MTB Club
Matt Boulcott	Individual/Commissaire
Jared Scollay	Department of Cycling/Jafakids
Tony Dench	North Canterbury Cycling Club
Tom Bamford	Manawatu Mtb Club
Sarah Olsen	Manawatu Mtb Club
Agata Bulska	Gravity Canterbury
Tuhua Mutu	Rotorua MTB Club
Richard Leggat	Cycling NZ
Kathryn Oliver	North Canterbury Cycling Club
David Oliver	North Canterbury Cycling Club
Joe Calkin	BMXNZ Board
Nardia Turner	North Canterbury Cycling Club
Graham Turner	North Canterbury Cycling Club
Rebekah Tregurtha	Christchurch Singletrack Club
Craig Tregurtha	Christchurch Singletrack Club

### 1. Welcome: Gil Peters (President).

Meeting opened by Gil Peters 1:05pm

### 2. MTBNZ Brief Review of 2017/18 Activities: (Chris Arbuckle, Gil Peters, Ryan Hunt, Gareth Osmond)

- Chris gave an overview of current club affiliation and the progressive increase of affiliated clubs over the past few years to the current 44 clubs. He also briefly explained the financial position of MTBNZ, which is now at a point where the organisation can actually start operating in support of events etc, and reiterated the necessity of foregoing the 2016/17 National series to rebuild financially.
  - A question was asked about the historic position of MTBNZ and the relationship with the National Federation (Cycling NZ). Essentially, the relationship with Cycling NZ has continued to develop in a positive manner and MTBNZ sees itself working together in partnership with Cycling NZ for the benefit of mountain biking.
- To reinforce this, Gil gave a quick run-through of the UCI –Mandated cascading Membership Structure: UCI, to the 5 continental cycling federations then to national federations, then their member organisation i.e MTBNZ
- Ryan gave a quick run through of the national season events from 2017/18 – Noting participation levels and some of the feedback received at the north island summit.
- Gareth gave a run-through of the national school events, all had run well and schools MTB is seen as a hugely positive area of massive growth with a lot of kids keen to ride. He raised the question of where/how the location of the National School Champs should be decided for discussion later in the meeting.

### 3. Report from UCI MTB Committee Meeting: Malcolm Thomas

As at the North Island Summit, Malcolm gave a summary from his first meeting.

- A committee made up of nominated reps from various federations worldwide along with pro rider representatives from XC & DH.
- Twice Yearly Meetings that then put recommendations to the UCI annual meeting
- Malcolm said there were four key areas to share from the first meeting in March:
  - EWS – Discussions ongoing with UCI as to how this could integrate
  - Stage Racing – Ironman are interested in working with UCI (they own a number of mtb races worldwide incl, Cape Epic, Swiss Epic, Pioneer (NZ) Cape to Cape, Port to Port and Reef to Reef (AU)
  - E- Bike – New president open to E-bikes, currently looking at standardising e-bike racing rules,
  - Pump-track. Redbull & Velosolutions looking to legitimise this discipline, issue with planned 'world champs' alongside current world champs – a work in progress
- Olympics and DH – Malcolm said that the UCI did not think DHers wanted to be in the Olympics and asked the group for their view. The Group said yes (assuming it was to compliment not replace XCO)

- Noted that Redbull coverage of MTB has been successful beyond any predictions and that MTB is the most-watched category for Redbull.
- Malcolm also highlighted funding for CNZ – Track wins lots of medals – policy is focused on medals.
  - Further to that Richard Leggat from Cycling NZ clarified that Cycling is a Tier 1 High Performance Sport – funding from HPSNZ is tagged to specific athletes, and CNZ has little discretion on this, he did stress the importance of Cycling NZ working to support athletes in pursuit of qualifying multiple slots for NZ MTB at Tokyo 2020.
  - Gil added MTBNZ’s role in building capability from the bottom up (through our clubs) which will assist NZ to be in a position to host UCI Cat events.

#### 4. National Series in Review:

##### DH Events

- The importance of fairness in the overall ranking was discussed. Reality is that it is difficult for riders to have the time to get to the entire series, so the suggestion was that overall should be based on a rider being able to do the races in their island plus one in the other (i.e. if there are 6 rounds incl Nat champs then result would be best 4 including final of national championship).
  - Agata from Gravity Canterbury felt that series points should not include National Champs nor Oceania champs.
- Entry fee’s, their structure and timing of early bird pricing were discussed, the group felt this needs to be reviewed (early bird too early) and to look at reversing the payment model (from add-on costs to discounts).
  - Included Double-Header Events i.e. CHCHC and the pros and cons of running dual events
  - BMX representatives in the room mentioned their model of having one fee for a weekend of racing if there were double header events.
- A feeling that more education around the requirements of nationals – importance of hosting events that hit the level (which can increase costs over a club event)
- Similar story with commissaries – a feeling that there needs to be education around commissaires – their role and that they are volunteers and key to the above – start to change their perception in the eyes of riders.
- In terms of the number of events, it was raised that care needs to be taken in terms of club workload running a larger number of events.
  - Further to this, it was mentioned that the current event guidelines document can be overwhelming for a club looking to host and may turn them off. MTBNZ acknowledges this is on the radar and something being worked on for the coming season as a tier 2 version for events other than National Champs and Oceania Champs
    - However, Gareth related the experience he and MTB Tauranga had taking on the North Island Schools XC event, and had found that though initially massive, when broken down they were able to meet nearly all the requirements laid out in the full document.
  - MTBNZ could also look at running an event workshop for interested clubs in the future.

## XC Events

- Observation from an attendee that it isn't necessarily about having huge depth of experience running events, - passion counts for a lot and encouraged clubs to start things.
- Feedback from South Island XC Champs
  - Had found communication from/with commissaires lacking prior to the event (aside from a great local and club member) This meant they felt unclear as to what responsibilities the commissaires had and what they needed prior to event day.
  - Acknowledged feedback regarding desire for more technicality in the course – discussion around the need to balance this (okay to be a step back from National Champs/Oceania Level)
  - Jersey's well received
- Event Numbers wise, suggestion that having only the North and South Island XC Champs events increased the prestige of them.
  - Discussion of linking in other non-xco events for the series
  - Counterpoint that selection can realistically only be based on XCO
    - Counterpoint that riders need to target those XCO events if that is where their goals lie.
  - Discussion of the place of the National Series – participation or top level XC
    - Ideally both
  - Discussion around potential sanctioning of existing events
- Christchurch Singletrack Club announced that they are setting up a Scholarship for National Champs for their club riders – with the aim of supporting club culture, building spirit and increasing national champs field.
  - Encouraged other clubs to think about similar moves – noted that some clubs already do support their riders to National Champs
  - Group discussed the potential if more clubs were to select and support their riders to get to the National champs – aid in field sizes and support having a truly national field at the championship event.
- The selection process for world championship teams was discussed. Concerns were raised about the criteria and also timing of announcements (particularly for U23 riders who are self-funding)
  - Desire for clear and reasonable selection process – asked MTBNZ to investigate what MTBA (AU) have recently implemented and see if this would be appropriate in NZ.
    - Desire to ensure selection is based on a robust framework with specific targets
    - Question posed regarding XCO riders not meeting the required standard and if this was resulting from a lack of XCO events in NZ?

## 5. Planning 2019 Season

- **National Champs Hosting:**
  - Reasons that it had been hosted multiple years were discussed
    - To help build capability within host clubs
    - To assist with funding (i.e. from local council)
  - Generally agreed it is healthy for the sport to have it move more frequently and MTBNZ confirmed there isn't a requirement for multi-year hosting.

- Accessibility (travel wise) was mentioned as an important consideration
- Discussed that DH & XC can be split up venue/location wise if necessary

### **All events (XC & DH)**

- The value of the commonwealth games coverage in bringing MTB to the attention of mainstream media should not be understated.
- Acknowledged that a greater MTBNZ presence would be preferred at these events including in terms of branding (flags, banners etc)
- Event entry costs should be reviewed – a point was made that people don't necessarily think about actually paying when answering survey questions regarding entry fees.
  - As mentioned previously, a suggestion to look at revising the payment structure.

### **XC Events**

- There were a number of suggestions as to XC Event Numbers
- Some preferred 2 in each island plus national champs (5 event series) up from Ni & Si Champs in 2018
  - As mentioned above, concern around adding too many in an already busy MTB calendar would be counterproductive and diminish the prestige of the events
    - A total of four XCO races (including National champs) raised as a potential compromise i.e North & South Island XCO, plus another XCO in the island not hosting National Champs
  - Suggestion to have the National Performance Hub run an XCO event if needed for selection purposes
  - Tu Mutu, raised the potential of fitting a UCI Cat 1 XCO event into Crankworx Rotorua
- Also debate around whether or not to look at adding other club events i.e. K-Loop Challenge run by Manawatu MTB Club into the series.

### **DH events:**

- As in the north island there was solid support for a 6 Race series (including National Champs as final) with 3x events in each island
  - Concern that this was too many (in terms of having venues willing etc)
    - Suggestion to keep it as was in 2018 (5 Races, 2x each island plus national champs)
    - Likely to put the EOI to clubs for 3x each island with a view that 2 each plus nationals would still be a decent series
- Series Points – As mentioned in the previous section: ideally want riders to be able to do races in their island plus one in the other island but must do National Champs as the final.

### **National Schools Events**

- The group felt there is not as much crossover between disciplines as previously due to specialist gear and bikes required for both XC & DH
- Gareth posed the question of whether National Schools MTB needs to be shared around
  - Group agreed Crankworx is great – the kids that are there enjoy it and feel part of something really cool
    - How do South Island kids get to experience that?
      - Point was raised that if the kids are really into it, parents will find a way to get them there - same story as Levin National Secondary Schools used to be.

- Seemed that the feeling was more of a nice to have for the nationals than a necessity to share this event between islands, though there are other areas interested.
- Regardless, ideally dates need to be out far in advance as possible to help source funding if trying to get kids to these events.
- Point about schools and teachers – not enough buy in to get it things sorted consistently
  - Discussed communication with schools – potential that club committee members adopted local schools to try and keep MTB consistently supported
    - Entry to National Schools MTB events is through the school for a number of reasons including that it is their signoff as events are in school-time. Not likely to change this.
    - Could also have a club member as a school point of contact.
- As was raised in the North Island Summit – confirmed it is only ‘preferable’ not compulsory for kids to have a school cycling jersey for national schools mtb events’.
  - Discussion of schools MTB events around NZ – Auckland is non-sanctioned run by MTB Club – seen as just fulfilling a need for more events for the kids
  - Christchurch Single track’s schools MTB racing fits under school-sport Canterbury
    - Murray from the club spoke of the difficulty getting into the school system but once in was able to build momentum
- Suggestion that it was likely best to transition schools MTB development into local clubs – better succession if it is a club function and can be passed on if an individual leaves.
  - Discussion around having kids represent schools at other events
    - Conclusion was this likely more trouble than it is worth with a multitude of barriers

## General Business

- Gil raised the importance of succession of the MTBNZ Exec: To keep the momentum of the past 18 months and build on it.
  - Small group – acknowledged Kim’s work elevating profile and building a strong base for communicating with affiliated clubs and wider community (social media)
  - The importance of filling the vacant secretary position – to continue what has been started
  - Gil also noted that if he was re-elected that would be his 5<sup>th</sup> year as president, so at a point where serious thought needs to be given as to who could step up and replace him
  - Encouraged clubs to think about suitable people, inside or outside their committees/clubs that could be introduced to the executive at a general exec level and get an idea of how MTBNZ operates.

## Tabled letter from Cardrona Alpine Resort.

Expressing their interest/ideas for future events – Focus on DH events.

Nat series, potential to host Oceania/UCI Cat/World cup DH events

- The group discussed this, particularly the risks from weather in an alpine environment.
- Gil had informal discussion with Cardrona pre summit. Potential options to look into bringing courses further down the mountain to mitigate weather risk. Improve access times to race courses, and open up new terrain.
- Rider feedback of full-length current course was really good but very susceptible to the elements
- Would need to partner with an affiliated club as a base point.
- Cardrona has good infrastructure in place, albeit high up on mountain.
- Cardrona keen to maintain communication and collaboration.

- MTBNZ to feed back on discussions/developments.
- Other developments around the country were also raised
  - Christchurch Adventure park are also interested in eventually hosting DH world cup
- **Question about National MTB Performance Hub**
  - Feedback was still that it is a good concept but definitely still teething issues in delivery on a number of fronts
  - Clarified that MTBNZ currently has little involvement with the hub operations.
    - Group felt that this needs to change
      - Questions regarding selection decisions both for hub riders and then overseas trip selections.
      - Steering panel to be set up, which should include MTBNZ but not yet in place.
  - Questions as to the functionality of the hub. Public perception of lack of transparency
  - Noted, riders contributing financially to their race campaigns. Hub providing logistical support
  - A 'work in progress'

#### **Commissaire Technical Panel**

- Gil – CNZ and member organisations setting up commissaries technical panel – oversee code specific appointments, elevating qualifications, monitoring currency and performance, review and feed back on event reports, education in conflict resolution - Elevate standards and consistency, goal of having best Commissaires in the World here in NZ.

**Closed: 4:20pm**