

## The Future of the Centres – Online discussion Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

Present:

**RTX:** Erin Criglington (EC), Mark Ireland (MI), Rachele Spencer (RS), Olivia Spaans (OS).

**Clubs:** Deborah Wright (Wellington Masters Cycling Club), Derrick Nelson (Pegasus), Tony Hammington (Wakatipu), Ryan Cooney (Southern Cross Cross), Russell Scott (Auckland Central), Jim Goodman (Wellington Masters).

**Centres:** Nick Spark (WCNI), Ian Brown (Wai BOP)

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Meeting started at 7pm.

Welcome and housekeeping by EC.

EC spoke to the presentation (a summary of what was sent via email to all clubs and centres) summarised by the two options for discussion:

### Option 1

Centres retain the exclusive voting authority in the formal structure on behalf of clubs and individual members. (The current structure)

### Option 2

Clubs to have the voting authority on behalf of members and be the conduit to the National Federation. Centres or some other form of regional co-ordination group, would become optional and would not have voting authority.

**Council recommendation: The RTX Council recommend Option 2 – For Clubs to hold the voting authority to represent members**

EC then opened up for questions/feedback

### **Derrick Nelson – Questioning the voting procedure – do I understand correctly that for this change to take place, centres need to vote themselves out?**

MI – Correct. Under the current constitution, centres are the voting party (along with RTX life Members and Council members). However centres should be representing the views of their clubs – not their personal view

*If a change to the structure is endorsed after these forums, Council will then confirm their recommendation by way of Notice of Motion and look to hold a SGM to ratify prior to the AGM. Noting that Life Members, Councillors and delegates shall each have one vote (each centre can appoint three delegates). See the constitution [here](#) for more. Any change to the constitution can be amended by a two-thirds affirmative majority vote.*

### **Russell Scott Clarification on the implementation of any change for 2023 season – is this January – December? And how would this change impact selection criteria for track nationals?**

EC – Yes – will start in 2023 season (reflected in membership structure when licencing opens in October 2022 with any rules and regulations effective from 1 January 2023. There is still standards for track national participation but this is part of the detail that will need to be further considered.

**Deborah Wright – Clarification on voting procedures for each centre and the role of a centre.**

MI – confirmed that each centre would have 3 votes, RTX life members and council members have 1 each. Any change to the constitution can be amended by a two-thirds affirmative majority vote. Each centre operates differently, some are very functional and active and some exist as an entity because the structure requires it. Those that are functional and active can remain so outside of the current structure.

**Ian Brown – We have 8 clubs in centres and have received feedback from over half to be able to represent them at this meeting. Wai BOP are not adverse to change but have questions. Believe that Centres bring other benefits to the sport and believe this review is too narrow. Have consideration been given to the unintended consequences of the change in voting structure? We believe the biggest risk is stakeholder apathy and this structure will likely fragment in the future with all going their individual ways.**

EC – Confirmed that centres can still exist – will just be outside the formal structure. And this change is just one part of the tool kit needed to support growth and re-engagement in the sport.

**Deborah – What are the options for clubs to engage with the centres if it's outside of the structure, what does the centre fee go to? Was interested and inspired to hear how active and functional other centres are is only aware of how WGTN operates.**

EC – Clubs in each region will have the choice as to whether they engage as a collective to continue the activity undertaken by the current centre. Centre fees are collected by each centre and are distributed as per their wishes. This is not controlled or influenced by RTX.

Nick Spark – WCNI run multiple centre championships – fees through licence cover travel costs, kit costs, entry fees when they could. Help bring back cycling to grassroots, removing a financial barrier and making it more affordable

**Ryan Cooney – Speaking on behalf of a new club to RTX we found it was hard to break through and understand how to connect into the structure. Agrees there is value through connection with the Canterbury centre. But sees the benefits of clubs connecting more directly with the national bodies.**

RS – Confirmed that Canterbury Centre will likely continue to operate under any option as its working well. Coordination and collaboration and the entity does help funding applications. Their only question is around Track Nationals and how this will be managed. There is currently more mana around representing your centre/province rather than club and wouldn't want to disrespect the national championships status.

MI – Standards can be managed through qualification.

**Ian Brown – We should be building the spirit of regional competition to build sustainable numbers and a pathway to nationals. Reintegrated the centre is not adverse to change, but needs to be convinced. Key concerns is that this will remove a step in the pathway for all (riders, administrators, officials etc)**

MI – Part of the change of the Aus Cycling model was the lack of connection within the regionals – these 'boundaries' don't necessarily recognise social connection that can have many

different meanings in the one region. If we want to be a bigger and stronger organisation and sport we need to grow the boundaries.

**Nick Spark – WCNI also not adverse to change but is interested in what is so broken that we need to fix it? Shares the concerns around championships been open to all (removing centre oversight and entry approval). How will this be managed in restricted events such as Track? Also challenges that centres aren't the reason why riders aren't connected to the national federation and also has concerns this is a foregone conclusion that these meetings are a tick boxing exercise. Supports the questions and concerns around no visible pathway for riders and how riders will be represented and managed at track nationals.**

**Tony Hammington – Can see the value of a centre through the delivery of events and believes the lack of attendance at AGM's are more about culture not engagement.**

**Derrick – Do you know why delegates are not attending? In his experience, nothing actually gets achieved through an AGM – so not worth it. In his experience he gets more answers through going directly to CNZ or to RTX rather than centre.**

**Ryan Cooney – Different disciplines and different ages and stages) have different needs. We need structure that is more adaptable to all and offers flexibility for all to belong and participate any their own level.**

**Meeting concluded at 7.56pm**