



Minutes of MTBNZ North Island Summit 2017

Venue: Waipuna Lodge, Auckland

Date: 20 May 2017

Attendees:

Name	Club
Gil Peters (Pres)	Rotorua MTB Club
Chris Arbuckle (Tres)	Mountain Biking Otago
Kim Hurst (Sec)	PNP Cycling Club
Anne Tyas	AKDH
Chris Tyas	AKDH
Mark Sprosen	AKDH
Kashi Leuchs	Mountain Biking Otago
Bill Cameron	Tokoroa Mountain Bike Club
Bernadette Mark	Department of Cycling
Scarlett Hagen	Mountain Biking Otago
Gareth Osmond (Gen Exec)	Mountain Bike Tauranga
Mark Lord	Mountain Bike Tauranga
Anita Lord	Mountain Bike Tauranga
Jared Scollay	Jafakids
Jeremy Christmas	Rotorua Mountain Bike Club
Chris Filies	Te Miro MTB Club
Gary Campbell	Te Miro MTB Club

Naomi Wright	Auckland MTB Club
Tadeas Mejdr	Auckland MTB Club
Debra Brocklesby	Te Miro MTB Club
Jared Scollay	Jafakids
Ryan Hunt	Taupo MTB Club
Krissy O'Connor	PNP Cycling Club
Malcolm Thomas	Rotorua MTB Club
David Shaw	Taupo MTB Club
Thomas Neradt	Jafakids
Dave Hamilton	Descend Rotorua & NZDH

1. Welcome: Gil Peters (President)

Meeting opened by Gil Peters at 12:30.

2. Review of 2016/17

Kim Hurst provided a review of the key areas of improvement for MTBNZ over the last year. It was acknowledged that while these improvements were not always immediately apparent at the “coal face” for clubs, significant progress had been made in key areas to ensure the organization has a robust foundation from which to progress and meet the expectations of its affiliated members.

Key areas of progress included:

a. Website & Online Presence

(i) MTBNZ Website

The old website for MTBNZ was not fit for purpose. Complete overhaul was required. A quote from Upshift for the proposed website design was obtained (\$4,700). It was agreed with Cycling NZ that MTBNZ could utilise the MTB portion of the governing body’s existing website. This enabled a professional appearance at zero cost and negated any time delays that creating a new website would have resulted in. It also fitted well with MTBNZ’s strategic aim to realign and strengthen relationships with CNZ.

(ii) Online Resource Library

An online resource library is being constructed on the MTBNZ website. This currently consists of minutes, reports and policy documents. **Clubs provided feedback about key documents that would be helpful for them including templates for Health & Safety, dealing with Councils and MOUs for working with forestry/landowners.** The current constraint in building the resource library pertains to MTBNZ's limited volunteer resource but it is a key priority to enhance the library resources available for clubs over the coming year.

(iii) Social Media

Significant progress has been made in promoting MTBNZ's social media presence, predominantly through Facebook. MTBNZ's Facebook page now has over 8,000 likes with good engagement amongst followers allowing the organization to promote the achievements of New Zealand's riders, racers and clubs to a wider audience. Over the last 12 months, there has been a shift in the demographic engaged in MTBNZ's Facebook page to include teens and young adults as well as a greater proportion of women. Over the coming year, the priority will be to **focus more heavily on promotion of affiliated club activities as well as racer updates.**

b. Relationship with CNZ

It remains a key objective for MTBNZ to align itself with New Zealand's governing body, Cycling NZ. This is critical for the success and sustainability of MTBNZ given it is volunteer based and Cycling NZ receives government funding. A better relationship between both entities also allows for greater advocacy for MTB specific matters to Cycling NZ. The presence of Cycling NZ's CEO, Andrew Matheson, at the National XCO and DH Championships 2017 was well received. Both organisations have proactively worked towards achieving a greater understanding of the organisational needs and drivers of MTBNZ and Cycling NZ over the last year, which has been very positive and should continue.

c. Club Email Database

A robust club email database is now in place. This enables regular mailouts to occur, providing timely updates and news items to affiliated clubs. **MTBNZ are happy to distribute information across Club Committee's to assist clubs administratively as those clubs see fit.**

d. Concussion Awareness Policy

MTBNZ's Concussion Awareness Policy was launched in January 2017. This was constructed after feedback from the DH community and World DH Championships Team Manager 2016, Dave Hamilton. It received the backing of two of New Zealand's top racers, Wyn Masters and George Brannigan, as Ambassadors for the policy. **It is highly desirable for this to evolve into a Concussion Racing Policy over time but for the successful and consistent implementation of such a policy, commissaires and robust assessment protocols need to be in place with associated costs better understood.**

The Concussion Awareness Policy has been well received by DH clubs and has already been promoted at AKDH and Gravity Canterbury events. It has also been promoted to recreational riders with Taupo MTB having it visible at the trail head.

ACC have expressed interest in partnering with MTBNZ to ensure wide promotion of the policy. Following the SI Summit, Kim Hurst has also approached ACC about the funding of some neck braces for junior/youth riders wishing to participate in DH events. **ACC have invited MTBNZ to submit a business case proposal for neck braces for their consideration.**

Note – after the meeting MTBNZ Tech Delegate, Jeremy Christmas, highlighted UCI Reg 1.2.129(3) which mandates for commissaires to undertake assessment and immediately remove riders from competition as required.

3. Affiliation Model

The affiliation model was reviewed last year to make it more cost effective for larger clubs to affiliate with MTBNZ. A tiered affiliation model was implemented and has been well received by many clubs. MTBNZ affiliation is also now a requirement for MTB Clubs who wish to obtain access to Cycling NZ insurance.

Through this process, MTBNZ has gained a robust understanding of the variety of clubs across New Zealand and their key activities. **MTBNZ now has 33 clubs affiliated with over 5,000 financial members.**

MTBNZ will work to further develop the model over coming years but it is recommended that the current model is continued for a further year to better establish what changes should be made. **Feedback from clubs was received around MTBNZ ensuring the organisation delivers quality to its members in addition to insurance.** MTBNZ is acutely aware of the need to drive its value proposition to clubs. There was also **recommendation from clubs that a single point of contact/invoicing for affiliation** (rather than both MTBNZ and CNZ) would make the process much easier to navigate.

4. Racing License Requirements

A day licence option was trialled at National XCO and DH Championships 2017. Its introduction did not appear to result in a massive increase in participation but it was seen as a positive step towards reducing barriers to competition.

It was agreed that day licences for non-UCI categories (age grades other than U19 and U23) should continue for National events. The amended Constitution will be tabled at tomorrow's AGM which will include this matter.

5. Technical Delegate Support

Jeremy Christmas expressed his ongoing support for MTB. He is running a commissaire's course for MTB 29-30 September in Rotorua. He is also running a CX specific commissaire's course 27-28 October. **The importance of developing commissaire capability within clubs was discussed.** Having more commissaires available amongst clubs allows better linkages between clubs and officials as well as fostering greater trust and capability. It also reduces travel costs associated with commissaires attending events.

6. Insurance

Robust fit for purpose insurance is now in place. Chris Arbuckle has undertaken significant work with the insurance underwriters to ensure there is a good understanding of the sort of activities that must be covered. Chris Arbuckle is currently creating a guide to insurance which will be added to the club resource library when completed. **Clubs were keen to explore the availability of insurance for club equipment.**

7. Discounting/Bulk Purchasing Equipment

In addition to networking opportunities amongst clubs and MTBNZ, it was proposed at the SI Summit that **bulk purchasing of equipment such as course marking tape should be something explored by MTBNZ.** This was mentioned as a possible value add for affiliation at the NI Summit.

8. Lessons Learned

An honest and objective discussion was held about the lessons learned over the last year. MTBNZ acknowledge that **early planning is critical for the National event calendar** and this was reinforced by the clubs. The **strength of networking across clubs was discussed**, particularly in light of the achievements of the DHCoNZ Series. It was also discussed that the format for events is critical and DHCoNZ demonstrated the **popularity of the one day format for DH racing** in New Zealand.

Kim Hurst reinforced the **importance of communication and early feedback** between all parties.

9. National Series 2018

A review of the role of the National Series was discussed. Open and frank discussions were held about the proposed structure, format and spread of events.

Kashi Leuchs provided insightful commentary centred on the importance of focusing on areas of strength. He discussed the limited capacity to prepare XCO racers for World Cup format events within New Zealand and felt that this is likely to be best sought overseas. **It was recommended that the focus for National Series events be on club support and rider experience.**

Current areas of strength include the National Secondary Schools Championships and the vast majority of the DHCoNZ Series events with positive progress made with the National XCO and DH Championships in 2017.

The impact of the busy summer race calendar of commercial and mass participation events was discussed and it was agreed that this appears to impact XC more greatly than DH. **Opportunities to collaborate with well established events should be considered where possible** although some caution is required in the event of the volunteer organisation underpinning commercial events.

It was suggested that it would be popular with the XC community to see a **XCM National Championships back on the calendar**, particularly in the absence of a robust National XC Series.

It was discussed that the National Event Guideline provides a clear resource for the expectations of National events and has been recently updated. **The importance of commissaires was agreed upon.** Chris Arbuckle (Tres) discussed that clubs should not be obliged to carry the cost of the commissaires and this should be covered by MTBNZ. He also advised that budgetary constraints associated with covering this cost would limit the number of events to probably 3-4 per year. Mark Sprosen felt it was likely that DH clubs could assist with covering the costs of commissaires for events to the value of \$500 per event.

It was discussed that MTBNZ would **likely be able to provide a rebate of the following year's affiliation fee to clubs involved in National events** to recognise their contribution.

Following an engaging planning session **the following structure, format and spread of events was decided upon** as a solid intermediate step for National events in New Zealand in the 2017/18 season:

National Events 2018

DH:

National DH Championships – Bike Wanaka have expressed an interest to host

Oceania Championships – if granted by Oceania Cycling Confederation

National Series - 4 round Series (including National Championships as final round), run to one day format Jan to Feb.

XC:

National XCO Championships – Bike Wanaka have expressed an interest to host

Oceania Championships – if granted by Oceania Cycling Confederation

1x NI event; 1x SI event

Bids should be sought from clubs interested in hosting a NI Championships event and a SI Championships event. There should not necessarily be a need for the event host to be changed each year should the club wish to commit to hosting for a longer period.

In the event that there is no club capacity for such events then collaboration with other well established events should be considered.

XCM Championships – re-establishing this on the calendar should be encouraged.

All host clubs of National events must be affiliated with MTBNZ. In the event of a commercial event organiser delivering the event, a link between the event delivery partner and an affiliated club must be in place. Clubs should be encouraged to network with other regional clubs through the support of MTBNZ to enhance sustainability of events and pool knowledge and resource wherever possible.

10. National MTB Performance Hub

The National MTB Performance Hub has been launched and Hub racers are currently on their first international campaign. It has been seen as a very positive development. **Clubs would like to see greater transparency around the National MTB Performance Hub selection criteria.**

Date For Next Meeting: TBC

Meeting closed at 4:45pm.

Kim Hurst

Secretary MTBNZ