

**MOUNTAIN BIKE**

MTBNZ Summit  
Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2018  
Toi Ohomai 'O'Block , Rotorua

Minutes from MTBNZ North Island Summit  
Held 1pm-4:30pm

**Attendees**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Club</b>
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
Dave Hamilton	Descend Rotorua
Hamish Neale	New Plymouth Mountain bikers
Chris Tyas	AKDH
Anne Tyas	AKDH
Jamie ROberst	AKDH
Malcolm Thomas	Rotorua Mtb club
Paul McDowell	Rotorua MTB Club
Sam Thompson	Cycling NZ
Kerry Stevens-Clow	Taupo Mountain Bike Club
Paula Pieterisma	Taupo Mountain Bike club
Mark Lod	Tauranga Mountain Bike
Anita Lord	Tauranga Mountain Bike
Anna Haycock	Tauranga Mountain Bike
Isaac Schuurman	Jafakids/Department of Cycling
Peter Bethell	AKDH/Jafakids
Tristan Haycock	Tauranga Mountain Bike
Tony Jump	Tauranga Mountain Bike

### **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 provided a review of the current affiliation model and explained its makeup, particularly the insurance component. He also briefly explained the financial position of MTBNZ and 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.

Gil stressed the value of the work done by Kim Hurst over the past 18 months, particularly in terms of communication with clubs and importance of filling the currently vacant position of secretary. Schools: Gareth gave us a summary of the national, North & South Island schools mtb events over the past year: Overall, all well received events, with a huge pool of riders (actual and potential).

Having support of schools is key to unlocking this and it is noticeable the difference where there is a teacher in charge of MTB and differing levels of engagement of sports coordinators.

The group discussed the likely need for clubs to plug the gaps left by schools to ensure their riders are able to compete in these events - even though entry still must be via the schools.

National Schools – this has been run in conjunction with Crankworx the past two years – agreement among the group that the kids who are there love it and being a part of the overall Crankworx. Regarding future years, it was acknowledged that Crankworx would like to continue hosting this, however there were definite concerns around equality and fairness if this was to be the case, particularly in terms of kids from other areas (especially the South Island) being unable to attend due to travel cost and logistics of getting kids there

Also was a question of what engagement Cycling NZ Schools has with school sports coordinators to promote the events?

Overall this is seen as a really positive area and crucial to the development of the sport.

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

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:

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. All DH oriented attendees expressed their support for DH to become an Olympic sport.

He also mentioned that the Redbull coverage has been successful beyond anyone's expectations.

#### **4. 2018 Domestic Race Season in Review: Ryan Hunt and Group Discussions**

Ryan gave a brief overview of the 2018 season placing it as a starting point to re-building a series of sanctioned national-level events. With the hosts of all NI DH and XC events present, this was a valuable feedback session.

It was discussed that the survey used post-season was not as in depth as it could have been, and there was a feeling some questions led those taking it towards positive answers. This was especially apparent given the in-depth survey done in 2017, which still holds relevance this year.

##### **DH:**

Acknowledged the lack of MTBNZ presence on the ground at these events was not well received. Noted that the exec is heavily committed and lean on time.

DH Clubs present (who had all been involved in North Island Rounds) felt that there had been a lack of clarity in the confirmation of the exact structure of the DH series, even though MTBNZ had provided documentation and requested web site event material. However, with official sanctioning, clubs felt they only realised this very late in the piece. This put stress on volunteers who had already done the NZDH series weeks before and also that some committee members were now commissaries and had multiple roles in the club.

Discussion was had around the place of the NZDH series, and whether or not a full National DH series was also necessary. There was still strong support for a National DH series and it was felt that if the clubs knew much further ahead that the club-based delivery model was the way forward they would be able to plan to resource appropriately.

Rider numbers were down on expectations – discussed possible contributing factors. Felt that decreasing entry fees wouldn't necessarily increase numbers (and impacts on profitability of the events) Licensing also touched on but overall felt that the series needs time to develop again without tinkering with the current need and approach of allowing day licences.

Dave Hamilton and Sam Thompson also stressed the relevance of the series for selection purposes, as it shows consistency over a longer period of time and assists selection decisions.

*In regards to whether NZDH series could take the place of the Nationals, the feeling was it complimented it.* There was also an acknowledgment that numbers are likely to remain lower at national level DH events for now and this was not necessarily a cause for great concern.

Jamie from AKDH talked about the importance of a common brand between races, as NZDH has in that series.

For the 2017 Series MTBNZ had requested Event material in order to promote via the web in a consistent manner. One Club had provided all the requested material (event details etc etc), Discussion was had around the varying degrees of information provided by other clubs (or not at all), to MTBNZ and the impact this had on event profile, participants etc..

Follow up on learning from this season, to map out the expectations for both MTBNZ and host clubs with National series. And provide a consistent brand and experience across the series (branding, podium, timing) being key.

The appointment of commissaries to these DH races was seen as a positive step and well received by those present.

*Gil explained about the technical panel being set up to manage and oversee commissaries in all disciplines. Within proposal, is the panel to handle MTB appointments going forward.*

#### **XC :**

Date of the North Island Champs was discussed – too early contributed to the low numbers, but this was the date that worked for the host club, and also constraints of the event calendar.

A desire for more XCO races was expressed, from a number of angles including selection. Most still feel there has been an obvious swing away from running xc lap events at a club level, as a limited volunteer resource moves to other disciplines i.e. Enduro.

Sam Thompson raised idea of a popular European format of Point to point for age-group then laps for U19 & Elite. Though the group found this interesting, clear issues for NZ were the lack of suitable venues and the sheer manpower required for clubs to implement.

XCO format bridging mid-tier events between schools/club level and nationals, are currently few. The previous Mid NI XC series was raised as an example being driven by one club and coordinated with several other clubs. A request for MTBNZ to organise.

*Gil emphasised the importance of people putting their hands up to be on the MTBNZ executive committee and 'do stuff' to help such ideas gather momentum.*

#### **Tea Break**

Continuing on the XC side, the group raised ideas for plugging the gap identified at a regional level between Schools events and National level.

Taupo MTB and Tauranga keen to get something sorted particularly at a schools age group. Taupo raised that their kids cannot get funding to travel to events i.e Nat Champs as they are not 'selected' at a regional level. MTBNZ happy to sanction their Regional Champs venture to help in this regard and to assist with event guidelines.

Questions were raised surrounding CNZ's funding of MTBNZ and MTB in general, Malcolm Thomas (as a CNZ board member) explained that HP Sport NZ tags the funding for CNZ for specific areas consistent with policy of Olympic medal targeting and there just isn't a general pot available for MTBNZ

Gil explained that clubs can have influence in this space – through affiliation and increasing numbers of financial members, this data can then be used to lobby Sport NZ for support in development funding.

Currently sitting at approx -7000 financial members across 41 affiliated clubs, which is still far below estimated recreational mtb numbers.

This highlights the importance of promoting club membership to aid this collective voice. The group mentioned successes in Taupo and New Plymouth via club racing.

Chris clarified – insurance component of affiliation (\$225 per club paid to CNZ) – Confirmed the rest goes to MTBNZ (none to Cycling NZ). Insurance is for liability and races, clubs need their own separate policy for any equipment they own. A question was asked around the possibility of MTBNZ investigating insurance for club members (potential for good pricing due to volume of members across all clubs).

## **5. 2019 Season Planning**

National Championship Host TBC – EOI for hosting to be released by CNZ shortly – Was clarified that this does not have to stay in the same place multiple years, though doing so does assist with gaining funding and local council support, along with developing capability of host club.

### **MTBNZ Series 2019**

MTBNZ should create a brief to clearly set out format, timetable, and expectations of host clubs when releasing EOI for 2019 events, a one-page document would suffice.

**DH:** The consensus was for DH to continue with a similar number of events: 3 in each island flowing to National Champs Series final again to be Nat Champs (6 Races ) Only concern was a reliance on core NI club venues particularly, though it was thought any of those used in NZDH would also be suitable for a Series event.

**XC:** The minimum was the two island championships, though the group ideally wanted to see two XC events in each island plus National champs (5 events). There was also a feeling that MTBNZ should re-visit partnering with professional events - opportunities i.e. NZ marathon champs - So long as this does not compromise the requirements of a sanctioned event.

## **6. General Business:**

Gil raised succession and the importance of starting to look at who would fill what roles in the future at an MTBNZ executive level.

Clarification was also given regarding endorsements of funding – MTBNZ does not directly have the capacity to fund individuals – but as President, Gil provides many letters of endorsement for individuals and affiliated clubs seeking funding in support of their continued development.

A point was raised regarding the National Schools MTB Event rules for uniforms – Gareth confirmed that this rule is currently not enforced. The group felt that if this were to be enforced fully (as per Road) it would prove a barrier to participation. It was felt that this should be confirmed with CNZ and likely re-worded to reflect the ‘recommended’ nature of school uniform for schools MTB events for clarity.

**Closed 4:50pm**