



# CYCLING NEW ZEALAND

## MOUNTAIN BIKE

North Island Summit, Avantidrome, Cambridge  
1:15-3:45pm Saturday 25th May 2019

### Attendees:

Name	Club/Organisation
Gil Peters	MTBNZ President
Chris Arbuckle	MTBNZ Treasurer
Ryan Hunt	MTBNZ Secretary
Gareth Osmond	MTBNZ General Exec (Schools)
Agata Bulska	MTBNZ General Exec
Jamie Roberts	MTBNZ General Exec
Jacques Laundry	Cycling New Zealand Chief Executive
Phil Holden	Cycling New Zealand Board Member
Jared Scollay	Department of Cycling/Jafakids
Paula Pietersma	Taupo MTB Club
Wendy Brightwell	Taupo MTB Club
Murray Anderson	Christchurch Singletrack Club
Will Keay	Gravity Canterbury

**Apologies:** Tom Bamford, Hamish Neale

Opened 1:15pm

### 1. Welcome: Gil Peters:

Gil introduced the summit and its purpose: An opportunity for the MTBNZ Exec to have discussion with our Membership about where we are at across the board and talk through our future direction. He stressed the importance of this connection with our membership given the affiliation base (50 clubs) is the largest it has ever been.

We also welcomed Cycling New Zealand's newly confirmed Chief Executive - Jacques Laundry to the conversation.

## **1. MTBNZ Brief Review of 2018/19 Activities**

- **Affiliation:**

Chris ran through the brief history of our affiliation, finances and how we came to the present point. Some Key points

- 51 Clubs Affiliated now
- Joint process with Cycling NZ still has some difficulties and bumps
- MTB Clubs come in many shapes and sizes - this still proves a challenge especially in supplying data to Cycling New Zealand.
  - We are still yet to see our data fully utilised - CNZ require more than MTBNZ need.
- There are a finite number of clubs - aside a few new ones popping up.
  - Now need to look again at strategies to get more members into clubs.

Jared Scollay asked what the difference was from 2017 - 2019?

- Chris identified a few clubs that have dropped off but equally a few new ones we are talking to behind the scenes.

### **2018/19 Season Events Recap:**

Ryan provided a brief overview of the 2018/19 Domestic National Event Calendar (3x DH Events and 2x XCO Events). Noted once again that if anything the calendar is becoming even more crowded across the board.

He then provided more depth on the XC Events:

- MTBNZ are happy with the progress of the current North and South Island Championship Model -
  - Great to see the progression at the South Island Champs with Christchurch Singletrack Hosting for a second year turning it into a truly top notch event.
  - In the North Island it was equally great to have Manawatu MTB Club put their hand up and deliver a solid event - and their first at a National level in many years.
  - In regards to expanding beyond these two events - MTBNZ feels that the level of engagement in XCO in NZ is not sufficient to make more events sustainable, from both a participation and resourcing standpoint. We would rather continue to build the level of these two events leading into National Champs and Oceanias than stretch too thin.

Jamie and Agata provided an overview of the DH Series:

- Overall positive feedback - addressing issues of previous year in terms of lacking an MTBNZ presence on the ground -
  - helping to make the distinction between a club level race and National Series
  - MTBNZ stepped in to deliver the final round when original was unable to.

- A few details that reinforced the importance of consistency across the series going forward.
- Feedback around getting dates out sooner - we recognise this important.
- Chris also noted the shift this year in DH participant attitudes - polite etc - shows the professionalisation of DH as a discipline.

Discussion around scheduling of MTBNZ Events:

- Event window is Jan-Feb
  - MTBNZ to provide proposed dates and EOI for those
  - Endeavour to keep working towards earlier release of dates etc as this allows for more planning time for host clubs as well as riders.

Noted also that the revised full MTB Tech regulations will be signed off and released soon - this will be used for the 2020 season.

Also Noted the value of commissaire reports - Allows MTBNZ and the host clubs to objectively identify areas that may need improvement and what was done well. Hope to see across all national level events in 2020.

### **Gareth - Mid NI Junior XCs**

- Tri-club initiative with Tauranga MTB, Tokoroa MTB and Taupo MTB Club, for Junior racers (up to U19).
  - Intended to provide racing opportunities for junior riders within the region and a platform to build on into National Events.
  - Likely to grow for 2019 as there is a hole in the winter racing calendar with Nduro Event's winter series now only one event.
  - Helps build things for CNZ schools etc
  - Positive place for regional development
  - Enhance the overall schools racing scene.
  - A way to get kids into clubs earlier
- General Discussion around schools mtb
  - Jared - massive change in participation for junior events in AKL
    - Growth is huge and now a challenge. - split from School sport
- Murray described the Chch Singletrack experience - Representing Schools seems to be key for them - School sport vs clubs/individuals.
- Noted also the difficulty of getting anything into fully sanctioned school sport.

### **Cycling NZ Schools MTB -**

- MTBNZ still see these events as a good pathway for Clubs to build/rebuild confidence in delivering larger events.
- Discussed the difficulties of organising teams for a March Event
  - But the realities of having to hold events ideally within a tournament week.

- Travel between islands for schools events - not a huge priority but those who really want to will make getting there happen.
- MTBNZ will be looking to return to a greater level of involvement in the process of choosing location/time for these again.

## **General Business:**

### **Enduro**

- Recognised as a key growth area of MTB
- MTBNZ Currently looking to get a NZ National Champs sanctioned with Cycling NZ
  - Would likely be pairing with an existing event due to the size and complexity of organising
  - Also would look to work with clubs hosting continental events going for UCI Cat 3 Status
- The topic of Full face helmets was raised (more on the schools Enduro Side) as this is rule (same as DH standard)
  - Acknowledged this may be a barrier to some kids entering but it is necessary given the type of racing`

### **Marathon**

- General feel is that it is worth revisiting a National Championship in this discipline
  - Added to the fact that selection now requires UCI points
  - Potential for a similar model to Enduro (pairing with an existing event)
  - MTBNZ will feed back to Cycling NZ

### **E-bike**

Need to recognise this is a change coming

- MTBNZ Starting to discuss how this could be integrated into events.

**Masters Grades at National Champs-** Currently not UCI listed hence can't get Jersey from CNZ for Masters worlds - Cost associated with listing it, and needs to be run tighter

### **National MTB Hub**

Jacques Laundry gave some insight into where he sees the issues being at currently;

- More guidance needs to be provided as to what an athlete should be working on at different levels of their development (as a whole)... This needs to be done first by CNZ, first then to Member Orgs and then to the clubs - CNZ is partnered with HPSNZ on this - KPI is targeted to March 2020 Delivery - E.g. the pathway for athletes from the bottom up to provide clarity.
- Funding for Cycling NZ is still tagged to High Performance Outcomes - being Olympic events
  - Hub Funding is from 3rd Party Sponsors
  - Cycling New Zealand are working towards a point where they can submit a strategic plan to High Performance Sport NZ and be able to articulate the

development and non-olympic components (and the value of these) and therefore be able to better resource the likes of the hubs.

- Agreed communication needs to improve across the board, not just in terms of resources on the website, but in terms of seeing the Hub outside of Rotorua- building local capability.

#### **Next Year;**

- Increase external information (and internal for the athletes)
  - Need for Transparency around the likes of selection and hub priority
    - Ryan noted that the first public explanation of the hub's objective for 2019 was in the CNZ intro seminar at AGM weekend - which does not help with wider perceptions.
- Clearer and better objectives
  - Jacques pointed to the example of Canada's Nextgen program - and how their international level coaches (national team etc) feed info back to that next tier down at home to help focus development in relevant areas from what they are seeing in competition abroad.
- Improvement in the overall quality of camps

Example of Bmx Hub doing an open session - every weekend. Raised the issue of that becoming a victim of its own success - too many kids and no pathway beyond - similar for MTB we lack a real national pathway beyond the hub.

Point around coaches in general

- Need more good coaches in the wider systems - Potential to use the hub as a development tool with the hub coaches - time/way to develop.
- Need more female coaches

MTBNZ Awards:

- Raised that we are looking to replace the 'coach of the year' award with some form of 'athlete of the year' - This is more relevant to clubs
- Also noted that we do need to be cautious of having too many awards as at \$500 support to get to the awards evening it does start to have quite an impact.

**Closed: 3:40pm**