

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BIKENZ ROAD & TRACK AGM 2012/2013

Welcome to this year's AGM, the year seems to have flown by. As usual it has been busy for all those involved with Road and Track.

Our first important undertaking was getting through the new membership model. This was a constant work in progress and council took every opportunity to sit down with BikeNZ CEO Kieran Turner and Board Chair Richard Leggat to work through various issues we encountered. BikeNZ willingly agreed to a number of changes along the way. A key outcome of the membership model is to have a structure that helps grow our membership by linking in the many other non-registered riders. British Cycling was a model that had worked and hence BikeNZ was looking to replicate. Personally I knew first-hand their membership went through the roof – so we were comfortable with the direction that was taken. The final step in introducing the changes was to amend the BikeNZ constitution. This was approved at the AGM in October last year and we have taken the opportunity to refine our constitution slightly so we are more compatible.

One part of the changes was for BikeNZ to realign their financial year to ours as well as other member organisations' balance dates and also to have a combined AGM. This will not only allow for financial savings, shared venues, and reports but is also an opportunity to have a greater connection with other codes, improved awards evening etc.

This year BikeNZ introduced a more functional website and online member's registration area. It is fair to say this has not proceeded as smoothly for BikeNZ as they would have hoped and as well for us. My email box has never been busier and thank you to those who kept us informed. It is fair to say the amount of staff resources that was unexpectedly required caused other areas to be put on hold. Credit has to go to our club administrators who had to help work through the process positively and, at the same time, continue to run the weekly races and continue keeping clubs going. While some members have still not received their membership cards due to poor service, at the end of the day this has not stopped a rider from racing.

Financial

The completion of the \$100,000 loan that was initiated three years ago has been completed. Also Council has closed its bank account and transferred the funds to BikeNZ on the basis that we had little income and expenditure requirements with nearly all income and expenses being carried out by BikeNZ. BikeNZ agreed to include a budget allowance of \$1,000 minimum in the unlikely case we require funds.

Commissaires

Our National Commissaires, all of whom are volunteers, continue to deliver a high standard of officiating around the country. The Commissaires' role often includes providing technical support and direction for people running events. For major events, such as a National Champs, this can require work over several months, to ensure the athletes can enjoy a high quality event.

The highlight of the year was being able to have a number of Commissaires assist at the Junior Worlds. It was a rare opportunity to work alongside the UCI's top officials. We ensured that a wide range of National Commissaires were appointed, from all around the country, so that the experience and learning gained at this event could be taken back and used at the regional and club level.

After several years of training National level officials, we now have a good pool of Commissaires for Championship events. We are now turning our focus to the club level, with a Club Commissaires course having been developed and successfully trialled. The intent is to now roll this out around the country, to provide club officials with the tools to manage races in a manner that will be consistent throughout New Zealand. It will also give club officials formal authority and recognition of their skills and service to the sport.

We are also pleased to advise that Mark Ireland has passed the theory for UCI anti-doping course held in Aigle, Switzerland, which will now open the door for him to attend some international events. This is well deserved for someone who gives so much to cycling.

Events

Events during the year-

Elite Road Nationals Christchurch

A well-run event, supported by the local cycling community in Christchurch. Good sized fields raced over the same course as previous years. Pro Tour rider Jack Bauer was attending but the rest of the stars were unavailable this year. This made the title wide open and created a great race in both the women's and men's events. Deserved winners in both events.

Elite Track Nationals

Staged at Stadium Southland, as usual, Invercargill was a classy host. Given it was an Olympic year, a number of our top riders were absent. Still some very good racing was held and all were worthy winners of their national titles.

Age Group Track Nationals

Back to Invercargill for another well-run nationals. There was a large number here with a very hectic five days of racing. Promising young athletes were on show making the prospect of the upcoming junior track worlds in Invercargill ever more enticing.

Club Road Nationals

Hosted in the Hawke's Bay region, where large fields greeted the starters. An event that all the riders enjoyed and supporters were easily enticed into the area to watch some enthralling racing.

Junior Points Series

This was run over the year from March to October encompassing seven events from Te Awamutu to Invercargill. Riders gaining points from up to four events to give a cumulative total to overall series winner.

These were part of a long season that had a lot of volunteers giving their time to make things happen. However, more co-ordination of the season needs to happen to ensure cycling in New Zealand continues to be a success.

Junior development

In the early part of 2012, the junior development squad once again focused on introducing a broad selection of New Zealand's top riders with the full squad attending the Queen's Birthday Camp learning team racing in the Powerco Taranaki tour. A selected squad of riders competed in the Australian U19 Champs followed by the Canberra Junior tour at which they were joined by the U17 squads. Once again, the Canberra tour proved a valuable event for learning and all aspects of team travel and racing. The later part of 2012 saw the introduction of a new Junior Development programme with a move from a competition focus to NZ based camps and an education based structure. This allows for broader development, not only for the selected riders, but for the coaches as the programme extends into a more regionally-based delivery.

High performance

This past year has seen a four-year cycle end with the completion of the London 2012 Olympics. This is the pinnacle of careful planning and implementation from the High Performance team, headed by Mark Elliott. Our Track cyclists made us proud by bringing home two bronze medals - Simon Van Velthooven in the Kieran; and the Pursuit Team of Jesse Sergent, Marc Ryan, Sam Bewely, Arron Gate and Wesley Gough. Congratulations is extended from the BikeNZ Road and Track Council and its members, to not only the medal winners, but all involved, including the excellent support team.

Behind the efforts going into the Olympic preparation, HP has been active in supporting the development of the up and coming athletes looking to the next Olympics and beyond. This past year has seen many changes that will come into effect over the next four years brought about by the UCI. The European road and track development programme and women's development camps were prominent in the plans of HP throughout the year and were supported by the BikeNZ staff. The next four-year cycle to Rio de Janeiro will see new challenges, but with the determination and grit that is evident within our athletes and those who lead our programmes we will aim for bigger and brighter goals for our sport.