



President's Report – 2005

We are now looking towards our eighteenth season; soon ATTA will be no longer a teenager.

Despite the fact that our business is testing ourselves against the clock, sometimes some of the things we aim for take a long time best not measured with a stopwatch!

Eventually and only a couple of months ago we realised a long-sought aim of re-establishing our website results database. In order to do this we also had to move our site's hosting. It should have been without trauma and was at first, apart from the work involved of course. And then there was a slight hiccup but it was brief and most people were unaware of it. The site's move also gave us the opportunity to establish a web-based Forum that will take the place of the mailing list that's been running for a number of years now but which has become a little moribund and was not serving its primary purpose of communicating with members – up to 60% of current members were not subscribed to the list so we had to set up a secondary list to cater for them separately. But that's also been done and will be more efficient in that it will allow subscription to other mailing list that will need to be set up from time to time (such as for the Championship events; BIP series etc) but preclude duplicate messages being sent. Of course it will allow people to opt out if they are likely to regard our communications as Spam!

The Forum will be able to fulfil the other important function of being able to retain links with past members in a more user-friendly way. And it can be used by our friends in other States if they wish but so far no-one there has taken up that opportunity. Anyway the database is an ongoing concern; it is relatively easy to keep it up-to-date but is somewhat more demanding to 'update' the archival end of it. Still we have a useful amount of data there at the moment – more than ten year's of it and we'll continue to add stuff from the old records. We owe big lumps of gratitude to Roger Hales for his work in scripting the Database.

In a sense I am mentioning all this to emphasise a fact that is reiterated often when people let us know, often as the result of a visit to the website that they think we are doing things in the right way; the sort of thing we want to hear, of course. That is: that we can run events efficiently and get accurate results (the essential feedback) disseminated quickly.

Bums-on-seats

Since last year we have found it useful and now necessary for an increasing number of events to utilise pre-registrations. We've always needed these for Championship events and the BIP series would simply not have been feasible without some system like this. It's not without its shortcomings of course; like the possibility of people simply not turning up; this did happen to some extent in the BIP series but, so far has not been a problem in our regular events nor in say, the Championship events. People have become much more sensitive to the fact that it is good manners to let us know if they are unable to get to an event they have registered for.

The BIP series does seem to be realising one of its important aims: to increase the number of women regularly participating in our events.

Rider numbers have increased slightly in WA in the nine months of this year and will probably be up by around 10% over the full year; in NSW, however they have improved by about 36% mainly, it seems as a result of other clubs making use of the ATTA events. I would hope that soon this will result in greater direct assistance being available for the convenor of that chapter, Chris Greaves. Until now it seems to have been very much a one-man show in the nitty-gritty of event management. And that arrangement has pretty obvious risks. The Tassie numbers are holding up well too and, in fact they have been involved in an increased number of events this year; many of them have been in association with the Southern Vets club and they do provide much needed support for John Pimm in the running of the events.

Like last year both Tassie and NSW were able to contribute their share to the necessary insurance premiums. This was particularly relevant in the case of NSW where the requirement for a greater level of public liability cover made a significant difference to the premium but the brokers were able to provide cover and premium details that applied to that part of the policy alone.

This has relevance in a more general sense – the various chapters of ATTA are properly an affiliation and although we in WA provide services for the other states on a co-operative basis and we all subscribe to the common constitution and race rules in general that were developed here, each State is an autonomous body. We in WA don't seek to control what happens in other chapters but most importantly we all share a common aim.

However in WA we do now have a continuing good working relationship with the WACF and can properly claim that body as our 'parent' body. But we are able to maintain a necessary independence like other groups similarly affiliated. That aspect of the organisational hierarchy of cycling does seem to have changed – to benefit bike-riders.

Prospects

The AGM with its need to elect a new 'Management' and set the various fees etc is also a timely opportunity to review our own management. Our current style of Committee management based mainly on limited 'formal' meetings (really quite informal) and relying principally on email and direct contact with members responsible for particular functions has revealed some flaws and needs to be reassessed. This will be a necessary first task of the newly elected committee.

In the meantime I do thank all those involved for the past twelve months and look forward to a re-invigorated ATTA carrying the message of TT-ing to the masses for another twelve months.

From Tassie:

Has another year gone by? Well attas or Titta as we were dubbed by Dean seems to be ticking along quite well. Most of the previous year's events were repeated with the Taroom series and the Mt Wellington Challenge again being the most popular and from where we draw the majority of our members. We did introduce a couple of other series during the mid week time slot. Before Daylight-saving finished we did a good little 16km TT on the back road at Cambridge; heh, I even managed a ride on the TT bike. Now that the dark of a Tassie winter is here we have been conducting a winter MTB series for those crazies that strap lights to their mountain bikes and set off into the dark; (don't do it Pete).

The bank account is healthy enough with approximately \$2000 in reserve to meet our share of the insurance bill; so all seems well.

We are hoping to increase the events offered to members next season with more regular Sunday morning events over different distances as well as continuing the relationship with the vets at Richmond. One thing is for sure there are some very tasty TT bikes appearing at these events; even a carbon P3 Cervelo!

My thanks go to all that help me, especially Karen; you all know her burden! She carries it well.

All the is left is to wish you all in the West the very best for the next year during which I hope to catch up with you for an event or two. Take care of yourselves and look after *El Presendente*, as it's his clear thinking that has got so many people enjoying their bikes and keeping healthy.

Have Great Rides,
Pimmie