



President's Report – 2006

ATTA was established at a meeting on 9/11/1988 and some of us are still hanging about; some have moved on. This will be a brief report as we continue to move in much the same direction in more or less the same manner as last time I reported on things.

Bums-on-seats

The wheels have kept turning and, again a few more of them have done so this year in WA. Not a great change really (+7%). However in NSW the numbers have been down quite a bit (46%); but still OK. It looks like the 2005 figures might have been a bit of an aberration. Similarly in Tassie there have been fewer rides but in that case it is a result of fewer events; some of those planned were abandoned and they haven't had the combined events with the vets that have been part of the Autumn-Winter scene there.

Back locally, the changes begun over the last season or so with regard to race registration have continued so that for most events now, we have at least 50% of riders pre-registered. This does make things easier and better managed both before and after the event. But we will have to make changes to the front end of the system so that the registrations are directly linked to the listings on the calendar page of the website and a bit further away from the generalities of a basic email system. This particularly applies to the *Early-birds* series. It has been mentioned elsewhere that the email load associated with that series was getting close to 1000 this year. It all tends to reinforce the friendly face of ATTA but is possibly approaching an overload.

The database focus of the Championships registrations works well. All the events in the series were again well subscribed and, as we know the two big ones, the 40 and the *de facto* 16km championships at Bibra Lake, oversubscribed well in advance. In fact we began receiving pre-registrations six months ahead!

Website

The site has been living with its present host for over a year now without any major problems, serving our ATTA community pretty well and giving assistance to others on occasions too. It continues to adapt to changing needs.

The results database functions pretty well and now all the relevant data covering all established course records is there. Some changes are to be made in the scripting but plenty of good, informative data is there to be gleaned as it is (almost 24,000 rider-records at the moment). All new rides can be added quite efficiently but it takes quite a bit of work now to recover the archival stuff so it too can be added.

Again there were some some very fine contributions made to the photo-pages this season.

Membership of the Forum grew more or less as expected and postings appear to be read but it is difficult to determine by whom. Many of the registered members certainly don't log in if they do continue to visit but, of course that's not necessary merely to read postings although if you just wanted to check for updates, it would be quicker to log in; postings are made only by a few regulars; levels of activity are pretty variable. No interest has ever been shown by NSW members in establishing a presence on the forum although we have left a board available for their use if they ever might be tempted; similarly Titta involvement never really got started.

Other States

NSW has apparently lost its sponsorship with Turrumurra Cycles, changed the format of its year's competition and still has a healthy membership although it has been noted that quite a number will be members who ride once or twice and then aren't seen again. They still need to find more people to backup Chris Greaves, the NSW convenor in organising and running events.

Tassie: things have been quiet since the end of their summer program this year and the future is not assured unless people can be found to take over the organising. Riders are keen to ride but...

Currently a group in Victoria is quite keen to establish ATTA-style TT events under the ATTA banner.

Prospects

Last year I said: "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."

The problem was not resolved. We will have to look again.

We continue to have a good working relationship with Cycling WA. The prospect of a TT-only licence has been raised and has merit but whether the ideal of assembling the various facets of cycle sport under one umbrella where they might live and function amicably and effectively, still seems ambitious and somewhat remote at best.

But without compromise at this stage, we still hang onto ATTA's fundamental tenet that all our events should be open to and safely enjoyed by any rider of a bike.

Issuers of permits to race on the roads are not making it any easier for this to happen. Their aim is for uniformly safe conduct of events across the country but at the moment there seems to be a prospect that local interpretations of some requirements could make life very difficult for resource-poor groups like us.

Again 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.