

President's Report 2010

It was more fun to report on 2008-09 but many of the good things about that year have continued through 2009-10. In that sense it has been a year of consolidation; with an eye to the future.

We have often reflected on ATTA's somewhat marginal status in the Cycling *establishment*: the bodies representing and promoting organised, competitive cycling events. ATTA's remit has always been one of inclusiveness; we have supported the concept of a cycling community regardless of specific affiliations; we have maintained a policy of allowing all comers entry to our events.

The publication late last year of the interim *Brown* report on the status of cycling in WA gave us reason to be optimistic about the possibility of a more open and inclusive future for the sport when, ironically there were already background rumblings suggesting a desire for the opposite amongst some factions within *Cycling WA*. There were serious problems evident in the organisation that lead to an all but total collapse in the last six months. ATTA became involved in moves for change that we regarded as necessary to protect our standing and ultimately our credibility in the bike-racing community. The processes of repair and rebuilding a more functional organisation and the establishment of a broadly inclusive representative body for all cyclists in WA are now underway but there is a long way to go. There are still some residual matters from the struggle that are yet to be finally resolved.

Nevertheless, despite the stresses of the past months ATTA has enjoyed its busiest, most energetic season yet.

Affiliations and Membership

Our affiliations are unchanged.

Our membership this year has increased by about 24% (to 243) and that makes us one of the larger groups of racing cyclists in the state but more importantly, shows an increasing commitment to ATTA; we hope. We often bemoan the difficulty in finding volunteers to assist at events. An interesting statistic: this year our riders owed their gratitude to over 80 different individuals. Of course a small number were present at a disproportionate number of events but at least we do have quite a range of people willing to put up their hands to assist. Thank you all, once again! A partnering agreement with SRG/ Bikesure resulted in a change in our insurance brokerage. It also provided the opportunity to realise the goal of online purchasing of ATTA clothing. Unfortunately the uptake among members has been slow despite the lure of new designs.

Racing program

Bums on seats: the average number of riders per event is now 81, an increase of 5% over last season for an equivalent number of events. That, incidentally represents approximately 3.5k registrations. Not every one of them turns up to ride of course (67% in fact) but it does keep the machinery busy.

No new courses were added to our list but we're still kept busy updating course records and recording PBs; the program is not stagnant. We have at least one new course in mind for next season though; a potentially fast one! We probably have question marks against several of our existing courses but, hopefully, we'll be able to use them for another season or two. The Early-bird series surprised us a little with an average of 75 riders per event; better than we'd expected. Our efforts to have a review of the course have been fruitless. It's 'the sausage' or nothing and now entrenched in the published policy of the Kings Park Management. The venue hire costs have also increased hugely so the next season will test the viability or at least the format of future series. Our proposed 2010-11 Summer program has been listed on the website for a while now and we will open registrations soon for the Early-birds.

On the other hand we've had no problems with Champion Lakes and have now organised seventeen events there. The last two had quite a picnic atmosphere about them with the consolidation of the start/finish and registration/assembly areas in one location. The venue is still developing as we remarked last year but the signs are still very good. It's a great asset and, we hope it will continue to be the focus of many of our events for a long time.

It is now two years since we introduced our electronic timing system. We've added a second decoder that we can use for intermediate times and have sufficient transponders for events that we haven't needed to hire extra. There hasn't been any further information on the introduction by MyLaps of the transponder lease arrangement that had been foreshadowed. A number of refinements have been made to our software and we are close to implementing further new features.

Administration and Committee

The event management system is quite tightly integrated but also continues to be refined. It seems to be reasonably efficient ...

The Management committee did adopt a more structured schedule of meetings that combined well with the email discussions and regular face-to-face meetings or phone discussions between key office-bearers.

We are also currently reviewing and specifying more particular roles for our Management committee.

We have recently looked again at the methods and means used for communicating with our members. This will continue to be reviewed.

Register Now has continued to be satisfactory for Membership payments and pre-paid race entry. They have made a few minor changes to the system but it's still a bit 'clunky' from our viewpoint. Nevertheless, it does the job it's required to do.

We have made inroads into effecting succession planning and training for alternative key administrative and operational roles. That's an ongoing project - "there is no finish line" as the saying goes. Maybe we should adopt it as the ATTA motto.

Acknowledgements

Several past committee members are retiring from the group but will be replaced by members now eager to take an active role. In particular, Mark Roberts one of our Vice-Presidents will be backing out - thanks, sincerely, for your involvement and contributions over the past few years.

We said farewell to Nicky A and friends when they left us late last year, transferring to the warmth of Darwin but she remains on our committee mailing list as a valued member.

I must again record, in particular, my deep gratitude to both Lorraine and Susie for their constant support and work behind the scenes. It hasn't been an easy year for either of them but they've been magnificent.

Peter Meyer
President