

AGM 2011 President's Report

After last year's political dramas competitive cycling in WA needed to re-establish itself. That has been a slow process. Although some of the hoped-for outcomes of the rebuilding have not been realised, they are still possibilities. Westcycle, a body that has the potential to represent the interests of all cycling and cyclists in WA has become a reality but is not yet operational and has to establish its credibility. Its model is one that attempts to embrace and represent all aspects of cycling in the community and it is being watched with interest from other parts of the country; WA's recent problems with the administration of the sport in particular, are not unique.

In the meantime, for ATTA, life on the margins of mainstream competitive cycling has continued to flourish.

Affiliations and Membership

We have maintained our affiliations with Bicycle Transport Alliance, Cycling WA (CWA) and were invited to become a foundation ('affiliate') member of Westcycle which we have done. The nature of our association with CWA is unchanged: we provide a route for memberships and (unsanctioned) events for CWA riders; we were again a partner in the promotion of the CWA ITT Championships together with Southwest Cycle Club (SWCC) but declined to take on the responsibility for the Teams Championship as it would have meant the potential exclusion of the majority of our members.

The surge that we saw in membership last year was maintained: we have again, well over 200 members (238) of which 50 are new. This means, of course that 50 or so members did not renew their membership this year but that is not unusual. We still have a good core membership from year to year.

Thirty one of our members are ATTA-based CA licence holders but at least a similar number have CA membership through other clubs. In total, therefore, only about 25% of the ATTA membership has an affiliation with CWA. We have a considerable number of Triathletes as members as well as those who are members of the West Coast Masters CC (WCMCC) or Bicycling WA. This distribution is, of course mirrored in the event participation as we don't have a non-riding class of member.

Racing

The participation rate in our events was similar this year to the same point in 2009-2010: 77 riders/event compared to 80. We had sell-out fields for the 40km Championships and the Good Friday 16 at Bibra Lake (where 150+ riders started); the 80km Championships and the Season Opener were also near capacity. Unfortunately, because of roadworks, we were forced to cancel an event at Wandii that was also at capacity; rescheduled at the end of the Summer season, it attracted fewer starters. The Early-bird series in Kings Park was still popular despite being on the tough 'sausage' course. We averaged 80 riders there although the number of women riding has not recovered to anywhere near the levels when we first created the BIP series. We will use a revised format in the next series that will also recognise the blokes' performances in some way. We'll continue with the points system for the women. Because of time constraints this year we moved the start back to 6:00am and even used 30sec start intervals for the final event without much difficulty.

Traffic management at Wandii and Bibra Lake when we have large fields obliges us to use professional contractors but this year we received very good value for the money it cost us. Traffic management is an area of our activities that will probably consume an increasing amount of our resources; both administrative and financial.

Only one new course was used this season - West Coolup where we held the long distance ITT Championships - the '160' that this time was only 142km. We had good support in conditions that were relatively tough. We have another option available now using a larger version of the circuit and based at Pinjarra. It will allow us to run the full 160 distance again in future. Most of our other courses are still viable at this stage but the future of several is uncertain.

The event management system is performing well: for the 2.3k riders that got to the start line, we had about 3.7k pre-registrations. Allowing for about 550 scratchings, we are left with a lot of DNSs. At most events about 72% of the original start list ride. This can be frustrating but even in events where entry fees are pre-paid the participation only improves by about 10%. Our use of Register Now has continued and it's been possible to integrate recent improvements made to that system into our own system.

Timing

Our timing software, *ATTAtime* continues to evolve. Since last September progress results, accessible on mobile devices, have been posted during the course of an event. We've now timed over 120 events using the Pro-Chip system and continue to receive good support from MyLaps the makers of the system. We are beginning to experience some failures of transponders but probably within the range of the anticipated life-span of the devices. Minor modification of our procedures has coped with this and we seem to have made suitable provision for replacements through the race-entry levy.

We have a number of people now confident and competent in the basic operation of the system and one other at least with a grip on the entire events management setup. Workshops to widen the available experience are still on the agenda.

Our timing expertise is still in some demand outside ATTA's own program of events and was used in: the Australian University Games; the ITT of the Perth leg of the UCI *World Cycling Tour*; Womens Academy of Triathlon and WCMCC events and, of course the ATTA contribution to the CWA Championships at Dardanup.

The 40km Championships this year again included a section for the Wheelchair Sports Association Hand-cyclists hosting a national event in Perth; a number of the local mob, of course are ATTA members.

Results

This year we added SWCC results to our database at their request. SWCC have, for a few years now, run a series of evening TTs in the Bunbury area (mainly Dardanup) and saw a need to begin collecting the results in an accessible repository. A number of SWCC members are also ATTA members anyway. NSW results are also still being added to the database and accessed by their riders. There doesn't seem to be any doubt that we have a valued resource. Unfortunately there hasn't been an opportunity recently to add any more of the ATTA results from the early years.

Back on the home front and the present: Congratulations to Matt Dec; Lorraine; Natalie and Cam for their successes in our major series, the *Hillies* and the *BAR*. Both series continue to be a focus and a challenge for members and the results for

both were still pretty much open down to the final event.

Administration and Committee

The management committee continued to follow the format established in the past few years of regular scheduled meetings with email discussions and information-forwarding filling in the gaps. This seems to satisfy our needs adequately without being over-managed.

We've recently purchased a second copy of the Filemaker (database) software that is the basis of our member and event management systems so in future we will have greater efficiency in the management of our affairs.

The most pressing need at the moment is a rewriting of our constitution to bring us up to date in satisfying the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act. It is underway but will require a Special General Meeting to ratify it in, hopefully, the not-too-distant-future.

Our affiliations with other organisations has been referred to earlier; it seems there has been quite a lot of activity on the administrative front in the past year.

We have made some progress in succession planning: Mike Round has spent the year as the Treasurer's understudy and is now on top of the role while Lorraine herself has diversified and acquired the understanding of all ATTA's arcane workings in her Vice-Presidential role.

We don't have one person fulfilling all the necessary duties of a Secretary but the most demanding of them, the Race Permissions have again been managed by Susie and documented in a way that it is now possible to hand over to a successor with minimal if any disruption to our functions.

Acknowledgements

So thanks now, in particular to Susie and Lorraine; Neilly; Byron; Mike Round; Natalie; Pimmie for all their support once again and, indeed all the helpers who volunteer through the year to assist in the running of events.

Peter Meyer
President, ATTA