

# AGM 2014

## President's Report

This report could almost be a recycled version of last year's but I'll change a few words and figures and be brief.

### **Membership**

This year's current membership is 309 (318 last year), 62(64) of whom are Cycling Australia affiliates citing ATTA as their club. Last year's membership figure was a peak; event participation rates seem to indicate a plateau (down about 140 riders of 2 years ago).

Our affiliations continue unchanged but Cycling WA is now CycleSport WA. I've commented enough over the years on our relationship.

### **Racing**

Extreme weather conditions have had an impact on a few events this past year and their increasing likelihood may affect our existing policies.

Minor improvement was seen in the Early-bird rider-number average but a big decline at end of series was a bit of a concern—the final two events saw only 52% and 53% of the 180 or so pre-registrants get to the start line. About 75-80% of the entries are now pre-paid, the remainder are pre-registrations that mainly go onto the reserves list to replace cancellations; most reserves-list riders get offered a ride, last-minute entries could always get a ride if they turned up—not that we would want to encourage that method! Brad Hall's backing of the BIP series did result in an improvement in women's participation.

Courses: two new Chidlow courses were used so we have quite a focus on the area at the moment. We had to abandon Inkpen Rd, a sad choice for some of us. Nothing has yet come of several other courses we have looked at but they're still there, in reserve. Last year's change of the Gents venue was successful but the course, although a good one, was not ideal for a 'teams' event so we are changing again this year.

We are currently reviewing the way we use traffic management providers.

### **Tech-bits**

#### **Timing**

A long-term dream was realised when quite independently, four other local cycling clubs adopted the MyLaps timing system, so together with WCMCC there is, now a large local presence. The new adoptees haven't yet made any commitment to how they will handle transponder ownership and, therefore, how we will be affected but there shouldn't be any issues that we don't cope with already. WCMCC Tx-owners (23) are now a growing proportion of our riders.

Flex subscriptions: the system adds some certainty to the management of our transponder pool units. It would be good to see a greater uptake of Flex by riders too; it's where the model, primarily, was intended to apply.

### Software and event management

Changes to our timing and race management software have been minor but an examination of the Beta version of the MyLaps proprietary software served to reinforce the conviction that we have chosen the correct path: our in-house solutions. This, of course is an essentially personal view but one that sees these things as fundamental and critical to what makes ATTA function efficiently and this, we are told repeatedly, is a prime source of ATTA's appeal.

We still have a number of planned improvements to our timing and results system. There is a growing number of other timing solutions with 'live' posting of results available that it's not difficult to satisfy a need for instant gratification with event results. It's quite exciting.

### Standards

As I predicted last year, the dropping of the application of Standard times to the results of the sub-masters age group was unremarkable.

### Administration

The minor change in our Rules made at last year's AGM was approved by Consumer Affairs quickly and easily.

Our management system doesn't show evidence of major failings; our model is pragmatic but could probably benefit from some greater vigour and more precise definition of responsibilities; the succession issue is still unresolved.

Within the committee, we are currently discussing fees, an issue that arises periodically (annually, in fact). I hope we can maintain our vision of accessibility for all bike riders regardless of affiliations and that this ideal is not an anachronism. Obviously there is plenty of opportunity for sports event promotion on a commercial level by independent promoters. But club level events are what ATTA does. The feedback we receive supports the view that we do it reasonably well and we know that our events are a testing ground for riders of all sorts. Nevertheless our approach needs to be sustainable; the evidence we have suggests it is.

### Acknowledgments

Given the amount of time they contribute to ATTA affairs, it's fortunate we don't have to pay our 'staff'.

In particular, Lorraine continues to wear numerous hats in her Vice-President's role; Jeff Usher has expanded the Helpers co-ordination rôle into the permissions area as well as assisting Lorraine with the Treasury; Troy was responsible for the new, very fine, ATTA equipment trailer, including its custom outfitting so we left it with him to care for. He had already assumed the task of signing the courses. Steve McKiernan usually gets ignored when we thank people for their contributions to the running of each event but, regardless he continues to look after the drinks. Peter Vaughan had a similarly pretty thankless task looking after the clothing business—the new ATTA ride kit as well as trying to get rid of the previous stock that remained.

And they all reckon they're prepared to stay with it as do the rest of our committee—pretty good, I think!

Peter Meyer  
July 2014