

AGM 2021 President's Report

Australian Time Trials Association (ATTA)

This year we celebrated Lorraine Schutz and her tireless efforts over several decades as our ever-dependable starter, Committee member and super organiser at ATTA. Lorraine made the decision to be closer to her family in South Australia, and on the 9th May we celebrated her last event at ATTA. A big thank you to Alison Ramm, Lorraine MacLennan and Steff Van Amerongen for organising the gift and the cake for that special day and we look forward to seeing Lorraine again in the near future when she visits WA.

Another big thank you to Peter Meyer who personally handles every entry for every event we hold, creates all the start lists, organises the late entries, handles all the communications, checks every transponder and runs both a primary and secondary timing system on event day to ensure that every participant gets a time. It is safe to say that ATTA would not function without his effort, time and commitment, so thank you Peter.

Underpinning Lorraine and Peter's efforts was our Committee for the 2020/21 season which is comprised of John Healy, David Equid, Stu Helm, Hayden Long, Lorraine MacLennan, Neil McRae, Alison Ramm, Kim Van Amerongen, Steff Van Amerongen and myself. Together with the wonderful volunteers that support our events, and sometimes in atrocious conditions, we would not be able to hold our events without all of you, so a big thank you to all of you.

The 2020/21 season program

Earlier in the year Main Roads WA updated their code of practice for event traffic management and subsequently started to lean a lot heavier on cycling events in WA which affected not only us, but also WestCycle and other cycling clubs utilising Main Roads WA controlled roads. As a result of this we are now required to update our Traffic Management Plans (TMP's) on an annual basis which increases our cost base for holding our events, and for several courses including Gidgegannup A and Serpentine, we now must place additional signage as well as reduce the speed limits on sections of the courses.

Main Roads WA requirements meant that we lost our Pinjarra - West Coolup course in all its forms going forward as their requirements would mean changing the speed limit with repeater signage along both South West Highway and Forrest Highway. Something that is both impractical and cost prohibitive.

Main Roads WA did grant us an exemption to change the speed limit on our Gidgegannup A course along Toodyay Rd using our own Basic Worksite Traffic Management (BWTM) trained personnel, which is contrary to the updated code of practice, and should this exemption be revoked in the future, we may need to engage professional traffic management in the future or risk losing this great course.

Atrocious weather meant that we had to cancel the Hopeland 40 in February however, this did give the Committee the chance to test our decision making processes working asynchronously by email, and processes around calling off events and event safety will be something to formalise in the near future.

We did debut several new courses during the season, Hennessy Rd which was run as a two up to make up for the cancellation of Hopeland 40, and which is both close to Perth and easily accessible using the PSP attracted a lot of competitors and with many thanks to a lot of good work by David

Equid and Kim Van Amerongen to get this course up and running. There were many learnings from the day, and we are looking forward to running this course again soon.

We also debuted the NorthLink PSP course, which may be the first time the PSP has been used exclusively for a cycling event, and which was used as the 160km ITT Championships which ran concurrently with alternative distances of 40km and 80km. We are also looking forward to using this course more in the future before the sprawl of Perth may render it too busy to gain approval from Main Roads WA.

We are always on the lookout for new courses, and we welcome new ideas from participants, so if you have a course that has potential, please get in touch with one of our Committee members.

Membership numbers

With COVID-19 affecting our 2019/20 program and the requirement to cancel several events, the decision was made to extend existing 2019/20 members by 6 months and to offer a 6 month membership to new members which meant that the membership period now aligns with the financial year. Currently, our membership numbers are down compared to last year and as Peter has mentioned in the Treasurer's report, there may be some more memberships purchased as we move towards the summer season and the Early Bird Series.

Key stakeholders

There has not been much in the way of interaction with WestCycle this year and with the Road Sport Advisory Group meetings having been cancelled late 2020, and with no indication of when they might be restarting again, there is a lot less interaction with the other clubs which hopefully changes soon.

There has also been some engagement with Kings Park Botanical Gardens and Parks Authority (BGPA) about their transport strategy engagement initiative. There were some ideas from both sides at the meeting and it will be interesting to see what plans transpire out of the engagement.

Event Safety

This year we took the existing risk management plan that had been developed only for Champion Lakes and expanded it to be our overarching risk management plan for all ATTA events. There was a lot of great work to complete this document from Lorraine MacLennan, Steff Van Amerongen and David Equid and just in time for the Shire of Mundaring to ask us precisely for this document shortly after it was completed.

There is still quite a bit of work to do in the event safety space with the development of procedures integrating a person in charge on event day, first aid facilities and locations, emergency services access onto courses, what circumstances constitute calling off an event and so on.

Volunteers

One of the biggest challenges we face as a club is having enough volunteers on event day to fulfil the critical positions without which we cannot safely run an event. This is normally compounded at certain times of the year such as during the Early Bird series and towards the end of the summer series early where we really struggle to get enough volunteers

As we have already transitioned the starter role with Lorraine leaving, and with other volunteers needing to learn the timing system to provide redundancy to Peter, we are going to be under more pressure this year to have enough volunteers, particularly for the Early Bird series. There is clearly

more work to do here, and some time will need to be spent fleshing out some ideas to mitigate against the risk of potentially having to cancel an event due to a lack of volunteers.

The future

We are always looking for new ideas, improvements to the way we run events and new courses to ride on. If you have some time and want to be part of the ATTA Committee then please get in touch with any of the current Committee members and we will warmly welcome you. In the meantime, we are looking forward to bringing you the 2021/22 season and hope to see you soon.

Kind Regards

Steve