

Communique from Ross

29th January

Safety

Geoff Campbell has now completed his Site Traffic Management System (STMS) certification. This means that the club now has two STMS certified members. Having members STMS certified is a prerequisite to running races. Only a STMS certified person can submit a Traffic Management Plan and there are requirements to have a certified person available at races.

It is regrettable that we had another four riders stood down for inappropriate riding recently. The club captains have the full backing of the committee to issue sanctions such as: a warning; a disqualification; a stand down (suspension).

Tour de Vineyards

Wow – what a success story that is. Just about everything was a new record

- The first time with separate category for elite women
- Record number of riders
 - Elite Men (92 riders)
 - Elite Women (44 riders)
 - Masters Men (40 riders)
- First time an under 19 rider won the Takaka Hill stage
- Masters Overall winner Warwick Spence (Tasman Wheelers)
- Winning Masters team, Tasman Wheelers

There has been very positive feedback from participants.

A big thank you to everyone who helped out.

Races

The committee has agreed to have a duty Race Manager at every race. Previously Malcolm fulfilled this role, however Malcolm has expressed a desire to share the load. Initially the committee members will roster this activity, however as most of our committee want to race too, we will look to share this responsibility further and enlist duty race managers from across the club membership.

At the previous committee meeting we discussed the suitability of the races run by Tasman Wheelers. We had Robin Reid come along to provide a rider's perspective which was useful.

Robin suggested some new ideas to streamline sign in such as prepaying and even pre-registering as they do at the SeaSwims (part of the Nelson Tri Club). It could be quite a simple thing to prepay for the Winter Series which would benefit all – cash in the bank and less hassle at the start of races.

We would like to have a winner's cup or trophy for selected races and the winter series.

We are a bit inconsistent about how we handle after race socialising. Historically many met back at The Stables bar, but this has dropped off due to a variety of reasons including races finishing out of

Richmond. We will attempt to have a Richmond (or close to Richmond) finish around once and month and encourage a post-race get together with some modest prizes such as a bottle of wine from our sponsors.

Track Racing

Two weeks ago ten local riders who went to Canterbury Track Cycling Carnival at Denton Park velodrome in Christchurch. We had 6 juniors, 2 under 19s and 2 masters competing. It was really good experience for all, especially the juniors (for a couple of them it was the first time they had been on a banked track).

The Tasman Centre Track Champs are being held in Blenheim on Saturday 4th February. This will be the qualifying round for the Age Group Nationals being held in Invercargill early March.

Safety Marshalling Duty

To run compliant and safe race races we need safety marshals. Part of the obligations of being a club member is to front up and do your turn. Liz Roberts has taken the time to prepare and maintain the roster – and she still does her turn at marshalling. There have been several occasions where club members scheduled to marshal have not bothered to turn up. This has put running races in jeopardy and it has only been friends or family members stepping in and helping out that has saved the day. I know that at some other clubs if a member fails to marshal, the next time they turn up to race they are stood down. In other words if you don't marshal – you don't race. I am reluctant to introduce draconian measures; however we all need to play our part. If you are unable to make the assigned date, you are under an obligation to arrange to swap with someone else, not turning up or simply apologising is not acceptable.

Grades

I included a note about grading in an earlier email:

Generally when someone joins Tasman Wheelers they self nominate a grade to ride in and over time sort out what is right for them. Some riders progress up through grades and it is also a reality of life that over the years some slip back a grade. This generally works out fine, however since the introduction of electronic timing and increased numbers resulting in larger bunches, problems have arisen. Issues include:

- Rider's grades are coded into the timing system and if a rider races in a different grade, incorrect results are recorded.
- Riders racing in inappropriate grades can cause issues within a bunch due to surging or poor rotation
- There is the issue of fairness. We don't want burglars who should ride in a higher grade.
- Riders changing grades creates issues of maintaining integrity for a cumulative points series such as the Winter Series.

The committee has agreed to introduce a grading policy. Simply put if you want to change grades, have a chat with one of the club captains, Garry or Dean first and they will help you work out which grade is best for you and your fellow club members. The policy is based on the experience of another successful cycling club and we are confident it will help resolve some of the current issues. The grading policy will be enforced for the winter series, so now is the time to work through any doubts you may have with your current grade.

Committee

After some five years on the Wheelers committee Christine has decided it is time to hand over some of her duties. Christine has provided knowledge, consistency and loyalty to the Wheelers club over the years. When Malcolm became ill early last year, it was Christine who stepped up and held the club together by shouldering much of the work. I remember Christine turning up with her arm in a sling as a result of crash, she still managed to do registrations and even conducted the pre-race briefing. Christine has also been the driving force behind the Masters and Tour de Vineyards. The committee will look to the best way to reallocate Christine's current duties.

Membership Renewal

It is that time of year, if you haven't renewed your membership do so now. Downloadable PDF form on the Tasman Wheelers web site or use the BikeNZ web site.

Survey

I will soon be sending out a survey to all club members to seek your views on a range of questions. This will be an on-line survey using the survey software from SurveyMonkey.

Reminder about Waitangi Day

There will not be a club race on Saturday 4th February; the Mike Watson is running the annual Lakes to the Sea race on Monday 6th (Waitangi Day). Details on the home page of the Tasman Wheelers web site.

Safe Racing, Regards

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