

President's Report 2009

The first event of ATTA's 2009 season turned out to be a good predictor of the nature of the rest of the season. Given the opportunity to ride on a new bit of the Mitchell Freeway we had a sell-out event. There are a lot of people in Perth riding bikes now and a lot of bike riders seem to be keen to do time trials. Our participation rate has increased by 30% compared to 2008. So it's been a busy year for us.

The event to really mark the start to our season was arguably the following week when we celebrated our twentieth anniversary, eating cake and sausages in Kings Park. It was a good thing to do because it gave us the chance to congratulate ourselves on the fact that, despite an entrenched local antipathy to our particular discipline we had succeeded as a specialist group allowing Time Trials not only to survive here but flourish; as has the ATTA brand.

This time last year we had just begun our move to electronic identification and timing and this season we have put a lot of effort into implementing the system in relation to our specific needs and integrating it with our existing procedures that themselves have been refined. Our timing software has been redesigned and completely rewritten, is now cross-platform and will continue to be developed so we can continue to provide the timely, accurate results that have always been our hallmark. We have plans to do it even more efficiently. There have been plenty of anxious moments along the way but despite everything that Sod found to throw at us, we have never failed to provide what has been expected of us. A disappointment was that Cycling WA that had looked like adopting the same timing system in fact followed the demands of the parent body, Cycling Australia and has adopted an alternative but incompatible system. This means that any hope of possibly sharing equipment, expertise but particularly transponders was lost. All the same two other groups in WA are using the same system as ours: Cyclo Sportif (CS) and the Albany club. CS events cater for a rather large number of Perth bike riders and the CS policy is to try to co-operate with all other cycling groups to benefit all bike riders. We certainly can't fault those aims and have made it clear that we support them.

Affiliations and Membership

As just mentioned we still maintain our affiliation with Cycling WA although as it's always been, we lurk somewhat on the margins. ATTA is still an affiliate of the BTA. We still have good relationship with WCMCC and as noted above, CS.

This year we finally ceased to have any real ties with ATTA-NSW when they withdrew from the insurance arrangement that we had. We still continue to provide them with a results service for their monthly events and believe it would be a considerable loss if the resource available in the database was no longer available to riders there. However there is talk of them setting up their own website. But the

ATTA name will continue over there and, hopefully so will its original ideals.

Fully subscribed memberships have increased slightly this year and we would still like to believe this demonstrates some commitment to what ATTA is doing.

Racing program

We tried a few new courses this season: Champion Lakes, Neerabup and Mandogalup. At last year's AGM we were anticipating the use of Champion Lakes and it certainly seems to be living up to our expectations. We've had a few problems from the occasional duck and other local wildlife but we haven't experienced any serious difficulties. But it is still a facility that is being developed and we don't know what the effect of some of the developments will be on our events there. We have had magnificent assistance from the management of the Regatta Centre and seen some amazing rides in the six events that we've held there so far.

Neither Neerabup nor Mandogalup are new courses as such but ATTA had never used them previously. Both were successes. In particular we owe the Wanneroo Golf Club our gratitude for the Neerabup success. We have return visits to both courses listed for next season.

The Early-bird series returned to Kings Park with another course variation and was probably a little better than we had hoped for. But the closed 'sausage' course is far from ideal and the 'series participation' rate did suffer. At the moment we are still in the process of trying to set up another series there, but hopefully using the old Forrest Drive circuit at least for some of the events. Daylight saving allowed us to hold several Early-bird events at Champion Lakes and mitigate the effect of the 'sausage' on the series but this was not a long-term option for that venue even if Daylight saving had continued.

For us, abandoning Daylight saving will be a good thing: not to be setting up events in the dark will be most welcome. We have even had riders warming up in the dark this year!

Rider participation in our events has been amazing; as already mentioned. Performances in terms of course records and the achievement of PBs has been unmatched.

Administration and Committee

Our pre-registration system now virtually accounts for 100% of race entries and riders are registering further ahead. This is becoming essential as events reach capacity; riders rarely just turn up at an event expecting or hoping to get a ride but if they do we usually still manage to accommodate them. The 'Register Now' system works well for prepayment of entry fees for the Championship series and memberships although there are a few features that we would like to see introduced that would make life a bit easier for us. Like with many things you 'get what you pay for' – at the moment the service is cost-effective for us.

The website hasn't managed to get its hoped-for restructure but is hanging together quite well as it is. The hosting arrangement has continued to be satisfactory. There

have been no major outages this year and very few minor ones.

We continued to operate on the same system as we have for the past couple of years relying almost entirely on email discussion and face-to-face meetings with key office bearers as needed to sort out specific issues. We made some limited progress in extending the skills base a little more widely but must continue to do so yet.

Acknowledgements

Once again I must thank all of the elected committee for their support.

But in particular Susie has been indefatigable wearing numerous hats and together with Lorraine and Nicky is very much the face of ATTA these days. It's fantastic to see Nicky finally re-emerge as a rider; Susie will soon do the same. Fortunately Lorraine has managed to ride a reasonable selection of events but possibly fewer than she would like.

Pimmie returned to WA but it seems we demanded so much of him that he didn't get to ride more than one event. This will have to change when he again returns in a couple of months.

Peter M

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