

AGM 2019 President's Report

Australian Time Trials Association (ATTA)

Last November ATTA trundled past its 30th anniversary but this has not been a good year for the group. Things looked very grim as we approached the new season with the certainty of having lost the Early-bird series. But we had a reprieve and the series that we did have was possibly one of the best recently; the BIP part certainly deserved celebration with the overall participation rate by women at 48%. And there was lively competition. Riders aiming for the road Nationals in early January certainly provided plenty of excitement and many of us felt we shared in the medals claimed in Ballarat (CA's National Road Championships) by Michael Freiberg, Luke Durbridge and Cam Meyer. But the good start wasn't sustained. Overall rider numbers for the summer season dropped by 33%; memberships this year have declined by 23% (cf a drop of only 4% in 2017-18).

We had tried to achieve a better financial balance sheet by increasing both membership and race-entry fees by what we described as a 'modest' amount: \$5. We had returned annual losses for the previous two years. But we haven't had any feedback from riders so we can only speculate about the effect, if any, the price increases may have had on participation and membership...

It has been noticeable recently that the ratio of members to non-members seems to be reverting to what we knew some years ago as we established ourselves. Although the *Hillies* this year were predominantly 'enjoyed' by members, the ratio dropped for other events—the Early-birds and the Championships were around $\frac{2}{3}$ and the winter series have been closer to $\frac{1}{2}$. Again we can't know what significance this change has but it had previously been reassuring to tell ourselves that a high level of member participation at events reflected the vitality within the club.

We're not the only ones seeing a drop in participation but the off-road disciplines seem to be doing OK...

Relevant notes:

- Memberships - early this year we removed the nexus between ATTA m'ship and Cycling Australia (CA) m'ship in relation to club fees and no longer receive a club fee from CA. This was needed when CA changed its database system and shifted to a rolling annual m'ship rather than the calendar year, January to December. We no longer received notice of CA m'ship renewals, so updates of both our financial and m'ship records became too tedious, particularly when it was necessary to do such things frequently (eg for the m'ship validation we required for C'ship entries—made via RegisterNow). However, we gained the benefit of not needing to handle credit adjustments for duplicate m'ships. Currently we have only a few CA members registering as ATTA members who are not, in fact current ATTA members; several have never been ATTA members. Currently we

have, ostensibly, fifty-two CA-affiliated members, about 22% of our membership. That doesn't include ATTA members with dual or multi-club memberships.

- Westcycle – implementing some of the fundamental recommendations of the Brown Report from 2011 has begun to look tangible, although the advent of Westcycle itself was the real beginning. The invitation to ATTA to become part of the Road Cycling Advisory Group as an appointed representative rather than an elected club is recognition of ATTA as a legitimate contributing body to Sports Cycling; we are there in a similar capacity to the WCMCC, for example. Prior to this, after the turmoil of the past nine years, CycleSport WA was finally dissolved as an entity with no assets.

The Management Committee

- As well as co-ordinating the permissions and traffic management for our on-road events David Equid managed the update of the TM plans for all our current courses. Big thanks are due for that but it wasn't all—he also managed to offset some of the cost of the updates by securing a grant from Exxon-Mobil.
- The division of labour involved in the management of event helpers, including towing the equipment trailer to and from venues and the course set-up was a notable advance. Whereas we had burned out several previous incumbents of those roles, hopefully we have done better this year and have David Equid, Kim vanA, Iain MacLennan, Rick Churchill, John Healy and Steve Oates to thank for this; as well, of course, as the volunteers who have turned up to fill the jobs on the day of each event.
- Ali Ramm has continued to look after the ATTA Facebook page and regardless of one's personal view of the medium, it plays a very important role in the ATTA world. Ali, like Steff vigorously promoted women's involvement in TT events.
- Lorraine's absence from several events this season emphasised again the difficulty we would have replacing her.
- Thanks are of course due to the rest of the committee for their contributions.

Events Program and courses

- RIP Mark Webb —after 23 years, the Toodyay to Gidgegannup event has run its course and will no longer have the 'Memorial' title; Mark can rest in peace. We were not going to be able to use the Toodyay Rd course for the next year at least because of the proposed upgrade of the road and Mark's family thought this to be a good time to conclude. The Toodyay course holds memories for many of us and if or when we return, it will still be known as the *Mark Webb* course. Thanks, Tony and Maggie and Paul for your support over the years.
- We had to abandon another of our long-standing venues this year:

Brookton Hwy. We felt it was a little premature but the decision was made for us by 'Main Roads' when they insisted that their permission to use the course would require a level of traffic management that, for us was unsustainable.

- We are considering other courses but it's worth noting that currently almost half our events are now held on two courses that are not open roads: Kings Park and Champion Lakes.
- The Casuarina 2-up again failed to get a guernsey, this time because of program conflicts and cost of TM.

Finally, the problem of succession has not yet been resolved. Without a leader ATTA can't have much of a future, despite a proven need for its product.

Peter Meyer
July 2019