

Cycling Section Presidents Report 2024-25

A warm welcome to everyone to the 2025 Athletics and Cycling Masterton Cycling Section AGM and Prizegiving.

I would like to especially welcome and acknowledge our club life members: Rex Dowding – thank you for being part of this club. *And our apologies from Pete James, Andrew Linton, Rod Sutherland and Lesley Moaut.*

Thank you all for being here tonight to celebrate the end of our cycling season. The numbers here reflect the passion that we have in cycling in the Wairarapa. Allow me to provide a quick review of the racing and season follow by recognition of some of the efforts of the people that make this happen.

On to the cycling....

First of all, I want to acknowledge the members that volunteer their time to make the Cycling Section what it is. Those that help organise and support Tuesday night cycling, Saturday, Sunday and other group rides as well as the one-off events such as Ngaumu, Martinborough Charity Fun Ride, Hope Gibbons, and support for the Cancer Society Relay for Life.

Safety is an important part of what we are. A big thank you to those that marshalled the events and to the cyclists for continuing to follow the road rules and being respectful of other road users. We have all experienced issues on the road, let's continue to make sure we are not the cause of any frustration – not only for ourselves but also for the next rider down the road.

This time last year we were reflecting on how we seemed to always be impacted by the weather on Tuesday nights, especially before Christmas. Happy to see that we did not have the same challenges this season.

I won't go into the rides in specific detail but do want to highlight that we tried to simplify some of the Tuesday night rides. Some of the circuits were used multiple times – these had been identified as “fun” rides and having high participation rates, and ones we did not want to miss due to a cancellation. One of the challenges we face with reduced numbers turning up on Tuesdays, is that is very difficult to split people into the correct Grades. If we don't get grading right then we risk losing even more people.

Club Championship races were again keenly contested with the list winners being identified in the Prizegiving Ceremony as part of this AGM. Men competed for Road Race, Criterium, Hill Climb and Individual Time Trial.

Once again we struggled with number of women rider's in our championship events, insofar that some races were uncontested.

This season we organised or supported 4 one-off events: Ngaumu Gravel Grind, Ride Holidays Martinborough Charity Fun Ride, Hope Gibbons Team Time Trial as well as the Wairarapa Cancer Society Relay for Life.

The Ngaumu Gravel Grind was eventually held on August 11 after a 1-week postponement due to high levels at the river crossing. Once the water levels had subsided, we had another fantastic event with most of the original 97 participants being able to make it the following week. Our thanks to JNL for allowing access into the forest. This is a fabulous resource that we should try to use more often. We are looking at another course within Ngaumu Forrest that does not have the river crossing.

The Martinborough Charity Fun Ride was held on Sunday 17th November, partially acting as final training for the Great Lake Cycle Challenge. This was an event run in conjunction with South Wairarapa Rotary and Ride Holidays and served as our major fundraiser. As a result of ACM support, a donation of \$7000 was made to the Rural Support Trust. A special mention to David Havid Howden in driving this fantastic effort.

The last event of the season was the Hope Gibbons Trophy held on May 4th. 10 Teams competed on the South Featherston Circuit. ACM provided 3 teams with the Men's team coming 2nd in a time of 57:58 and the Mixed Teams coming 1st and 2nd.

I also want to mention our support for the Wairarapa Cancer Society Relay for Life. ACM provided the timing equipment for this event. Many of us have been touched by cancer either directly or via family and/or friends. I felt privileged to be able to support this event. Just over \$210,000 was raised. As far as our timing equipment went, the "winner" with most laps recorded was the team representing Kuranui College with 691 laps (equivalent to 276.4 km) followed by Chanel College (641 laps) and Rathkeale College Year 13s (628 laps).

The North Island Teams Series ran again at the end of last year with a Tararua Builders Racing team entered in Cat 4. An excellent result winning the overall teams' classification with Simon Butler finishing 2nd individual overall on count-

back in a very close result. A huge thanks again to Mike and Tracey Wilkinson for their support and sponsorship of the TBR Team, as well as PJ for doing his utmost to make sure we were all heading in the same direction. Our appreciation is also extended to those who supported and assisted this event. Jorge – you run an impressive event. Thank you again for trying to keep road racing alive in New Zealand.

Finally, Athletics and Cycling Masterton were represented in the National Age Group Championships recently held in Cambridge by Rex Dowding (Time Trial and Road Race) and Dominic Green and Belinda Fuller in the Road Races. We are grateful for your dedication and commitment to flying the ACM flag.

A quick wrap up with some ACM business. At a Special AGM held in August we welcomed the BMX section into ACM. We know they are working hard to establish themselves. The addition of junior riders onto bikes in whatever form can only be good for the state of cycling in Masterton.

So what happens next?

As a Cycling Committee we will look at the Racing Calendar again. Something has to change to help increase the numbers riding on a Tuesday night. We are looking at a couple of options including reducing the length of the season, as well as having some sort of series within a series. More details to follow. We will keep the Championship Races.

Recognising the increasing interest in gravel rides we are looking at establishing a Gravel Series to be held in August / September. Our thoughts are a combination of Ngaumu and Mauriceville Gravel and Tar. Again, details still to be finalised but hopefully these will be well supported events.

Let me wrap up with some final thanks yours.

To The Committee in alphabetical order:

- Andy Curtis-Cody,
- Belinda Fuller,
- David Howden,
- Gareth Price,
- Jorge Sandoval,
- Karen Blade,
- Tom McCallum

Thank you for all your efforts and your support. Cycling in the Wairarapa would not be same without the effort and time you put into this Committee.

This year we farewell David Howden and Karen Blade from the Cycling Committee. I can't thank them enough for the support, dedication and commitment you have provided to us over the past years. I know we haven't lost you to cycling all together and wish you all the best with your extra free time.

To all the others with Roles outside the Committee, in particular:

- Andrew Linton, Steve Hannam for Course Set Up and Pick Up
- Mark Jerling for Course set up, Timing and Pizza Cooking,
- Di Dowding Head Chef,
- To those that volunteer their time to allow races to take place
- Thank you all

Thank you to the businesses supporting cycling in the Masterton and wider Wairarapa including:

- Eastwood Motor Group for the use of the BBQ and
- Masterton Motorplex for the Drag Strip.
- To Cycling Tom's Bike Shop

Your ongoing support is very much appreciated.

Last but not least (and the same as last year), I would like, on behalf of all members, to recognise and thank those that allow us to follow our passion. Thank you to our spouses, partners, significant others, children, family and friends for allowing us the time to do what we do.

Derek de Zwart

President – Cycling Section

Athletics and Cycling Masterton

17 May 2025

Post AGM Meeting Prizegiving (Names not released during reading of President Report)

ACM Cycling Section Awards List – 2024/25

1. John Chesmar Memorial Trophy – First Handicap Road Race (Greg Baillie)
2. Prologue 2 Mile Cup - Watsons Road, followed by Lees Pakaraka Loop (Simon Butler)
3. ½ Mile Cup (Simon Butler)
4. Road Race (Nick On)
5. Criterium (Simon Butler)
6. Hill Champion (Dave Drummond)
7. Time Trial (Dave Drummond)
8. Service Award (Karen Blade)