



Friendly and competitive cycling for all ages in Sydney's West

Penrith Cycling Club **President's Report – 2010/11**

2010/11 was a good year for the Penrith Cycling Club. It was a year of consolidation – we did some new things, but mostly settled into the things we started in the previous few years.

In a nutshell, -

- Membership was a little down on the previous year,
- Our operating costs increased.
- We increased our race fees, and
- We posted a trading profit to slightly increase our bank reserves.
- We substantially increased the number of people involved in the running of the club
- We ran about the same amount of races as the prior year,
- Again we supported our riders competing in opens and other events
- We provided support for the Amy Gillet foundation,
- Our riders have done very well in competition – at state and international levels
- We've got a gala dinner organised
- We got on to Facebook – to supplement our web presence
- We started an open series pointscore to encourage participation in open racing – with City Hino the inaugural sponsor.
- Our sponsored group – the BikeMinded crew, has increased in numbers and represents a strong and positive group within the club.
- We've prepared for a change of sponsorship, as the 2 year Chocolate Room sponsorship concludes and we see an opportunity to broaden our sponsorship revenue in the future.

Now for some details:

Membership:

We have 249 members, down from 273 last year. The change is due to the extra “development Program” members we had in 2010.

About 60% of our members are in the Men's Masters categories. There's just 9% women, which is an increase, and there are some good riders there.

There are only about 12 non-racing members, so we're still very much a racing club.

The under-represented segments: There are just 16 juniors, so we could increase there. And there are just 11 riders in under-23 and under 19 categories, and it would be good to double that.

In summary we have a good solid member base, which is likely to stay about the current level, assuming we don't do much different to what we've been doing.

Operating Costs

Operating costs increased due to increased charges at the Regatta Centre. A winter race costs about \$980 to run, and needs 82 riders to breakeven. This year we averaged 62 riders across just 6 rounds. The bad news is that the winter SIRC fees increased 22% from July, and for 10am stats increase 35%. We are in negotiations about the last.

But the summer series offsets the winter. Each summer series costs a bit over \$900 to run, and we need 82 riders to break even. For the spring and autumn series we averaged 123 riders in the pre-Xmas series and 96 riders across the post Xmas series. That was a bit down on last year, due to weather. But the summers series still runs enough profit to subsidise the winter.

For 2010/2011 we lost some money on the Sydney Road Titles, due to increased charges. We usually show a profit on this event.

We also cancelled a couple of races in the last 12 months, due to weather, and lost our booking fees on one of those races.

For 2012 we increased the race fees to \$12 from \$10 and this has covered the cost increases so far, so we ran at a profit in the current year.

An additional expense we have recently started to incur is the additional marshal on the island bridge. This is to prevent riders and cars colliding when riders cross the centre line. This expense is about \$100 per race and will affect us when we run races with the larger numbers, such as Sydney titles and Club Championships.

Club Management

During this year there was a good increase in participation in the club activities. We often had 10 or more at Committee Meetings, and we had continuing help and contributions from a wider range of people than before.

The Club Committee met monthly during the year, and we have a casual booking at Maccas on High Street in Penrith. The schedule of meetings is on the web site and we encourage members to attend.

The agendas and rollup for the meetings means the location is now a bit small, and for me was a bit noisy – and we should be looking for a more suitable home – but one with good coffee.

Again I am pleased to say we met all the legal and safety requirements that associations are required to meet. We did update some of our documentation during the year, and are in very good shape that way.

Again we represented the club's interests to the State and National cycling federations, by attending NSW Cycling meetings.

In 2011 we got one new Commissaire and some more people accredited in traffic control and first aid. Thanks to those who gave their time and effort.

Every year we report on the need for more and better communications. This year is no different. But we are using Facebook more and that is becoming a core part of our communications, as it should in the 21st century.

In my view the communication has been OK overall, but the club will need to think through the way it uses the new communication opportunities.

Racing

In this last year we more than 35 club and open races, including the Time Trial and the Sydney Championships.

Our winter series has been a bit light, just 7 races, but we take every Regatta Centre date we can get – it was just not available for any more days. We've pre-booked all 2012 already, and at this stage we have more dates than we had last year.

We had an opportunity this year to run a women's open, but were not quite quick enough to lock in the few available dates. This is an opportunity for 2012.

Our riders have competed successfully in many events, including the national and state Masters, the state and national series, and Para-cycling events. We have seen some really good results from some of our younger riders.

The club still increased its profile in track racing – mostly via the Friday night competition. Plus we have a track sprinter on Sean Eadie's Talent ID team.

We look forward to celebrating our racing success at the gala dinner in October.

Sponsorship

We are almost at the end of our last year of Chocolate Room sponsorship, and extend sincere thanks to the Oaten family for that.

As planned we've used the funds to pay for the rider support programs. There are three programs operating – Race Entry Refund Program, Rider Incentive Program and Rider Travel Support. (details are all on the club website).

Also we provided prize money for the summer series from a Penrith City Star sponsorship. We also appreciated the support from Nepean Pools and Winmalee Pharmacy for races during the year.

City Hino has generously provided support for the 2011 Open Series Pointscore. The winners will be announced at the Gala Dinner in October.

We are in negotiations for new sponsors for 2012 and beyond. We are looking to increase the sponsorship level, in line with the greater membership, and this looks possible, but there's still some work to do.

Acknowledgements

I'd like to thank some people in particular..

Ann Neumann – treasurer, who did a great job in her first year, and definitely has got the hang of it!

Frank Merritt – for looking after the juniors again this year. Frank also helps other clubs with marshalling and first aid, and that's an invaluable service that we all appreciate.

Graeme Spratt - who has been looking after secretarial duties, plus membership management.

Pam Reynolds – for a great job on first aid this year.

Jim and Elaine Stokes – we appreciate your work for the club.

David Davies - managing the uniforms, and anything else needed

Alan Waters - always supporting club races

Grant Delbridge for helping with the pointscore

Michael Sales – new Commissaire, and also racing pretty well – shows you can do both.

Jennifer Brown – for a great job on race reporting earlier on in the year.

Sam Cash - for his great work on securing future sponsors.

Mike Stacey – who maintains the web site as one of the most effective club sites around.

Kellie Milostic –Kellie is a club patron and in that role has provided counsel and guidance on all sorts of club matters.

The committee would also like to thank the owners and the staff at the local bike shops for the support they give in a lot of different ways, and the Regatta Centre, for their support.

And again, our primary sponsor, the Chocolate Room.

Finally I'd like to thank the committee and the club in general for the opportunity to be president this last three years.

The reason I won't be standing again is that my business commitments for the next couple of years are going to be pretty solid, and it will not be possible to attend meetings and put in the time required. Apart from that I think it's important for clubs and the people in them to share the fun and the work around. But I can say that being president is definitely one of the most enjoyable and rewarding things I have ever done, and I think - and hope - the other committee members would feel the same way.

This is certainly a great club – and great community – and I look forward to continuing as part of it.

Keiran Hogan